

4B Last Flight Update



*O God of all beginnings and endings,
We praise and thank you for the gift of this school year.
It has been a time filled with grace and blessings,
With challenges and opportunities, joys and sorrows.*

*The days have passed quickly, O Lord.
The weeks, the months, the seasons, the holidays and holy days, the
exams, vacations, breaks, and assemblies; all have come forth from
your hand. While we trust that your purposes have always been at
work each day, sometimes it has seemed difficult to understand and
appreciate. Give us the rest and refreshment we need this summer.
May we continue to grow in age, wisdom, knowledge and grace all
the days of our lives.
Amen.*

Dear 4B Families,

After graduating three classes from St. Rose since June 8; the bittersweet moment has arrived for me to send my pilots-in-training forward to the fifth grade! At the end of each year, this Dr. Seuss rhyme always echoes in my head...

*"How did it get so late so soon? It's night before it's afternoon. December is here before it's June.
My goodness how the time has flown. How did it get so late so soon?"*

Did you pinch yourself today thinking is this really the last day of school or is there somebody waiting to pop up and say, "just kidding!"? Well you don't have to pinch yourself or wonder, because we began our decent just a few short days ago, but here we are, we have arrived at the gate and have disembarked from Flight 4B! When I look back at all our crew accomplished this year, they certainly deserve many pats on the back and a ticket to an adventurous summer because they couldn't have been more hard working and cooperative pilots-in-training than they were through the year; for that I was very blessed and give them a huge thank you for the class they have become this year! They are one determined group, individually and collectively and I couldn't be prouder of each and every one of them, for many reasons!

When you are down in the trenches of the days, weeks, and months of work, you sometimes lose sight of what is unfolding right before your eyes; and then you have those moments, when you look out at your group or you have a chat about what they are working on, or review a project or a test and say, they have it! I stretched their thinking, I challenged them in a number of ways, and they didn't ever give up or say I can't do this; well, maybe we had a few experiences with the I can't, but we quickly turned it around to I can, wow, this is actually easy! They tried, they asked, they figured it out, and they achieved! They loved being the student, and loved being the teacher to each other and even to me sometimes. As I watched their Teacher Tuesday Presentations and looked at what they put on their slides, and the videos they selected or the ones they made; I had that teacher moment where I wanted to jump up and say, "that's it!" It all comes together in an activity like this and I am blown away! They researched, they took notes, they created, and they presented and not only taught each other about their topic; but, helped each other as they took roles of expert in how to use Google Drive, or Google Slides. They became problem solvers when something wasn't working and they fixed it or worked around it. Watching them present, seeing the creativity, seeing the communication skills come to life like they did; I can't wait to see them next year and then in middle school when they participate in the speech contest and take on leadership roles! This is how the year has been; I set the expectations and they chose, with much determination, to give me more! Always enthusiastic and always wanting to take it to the next level!

On Thursday, third grade came to visit for Moving Up; our crew members each created a short slide presentation about 4th grade. It was heartwarming to hear what stands out in their memories; and just as heartwarming to watch them stand in front of an audience and confidently present. They have become not only skilled learners, but also skilled teachers! I am so proud of how eagerly they want to help each other; how excited they get when they master something and then are able to teach others or help someone find an error and then problem solve with them.

Yes, I could go on for pages about the year; your children have been a true blessing this year! Was the year perfect? No, we wouldn't have grown and made it to where we are today if it was perfect. We learned from our mistakes, from the bumps along the way, and we are grateful for those opportunities! They learned the way so quickly when it came to getting along, they bonded together as a group and took care of each other, watched out for each other, and helped each other. They even watched over me! We truly became a family!

Our journey was full, and we have much to be thankful for, we have much to be proud of as a group, and individually! They gave a lot and they have a lot to offer. One of the most precious sights was the TLC they gave their buddies and watching them walk them down the hallway to their class; and pause to help them unpack and put things in their lockers. They were always ready to be leaders and to pitch in whenever they had the opportunity!

After all that, how do we say good-bye to this year? This is always the most difficult part of the year for me; even though summer is calling and vacation is overdue, it's bittersweet as we begin to clean out the desks and take things off the walls and boards. After all the days of being together, knowing them and how they will come into the room, or what their expression will be at the mention of a specific thing, or knowing that they will ask that same question no matter how many times it's been answered; those are the things that linger throughout the room even after they've left; I will miss it! They have made their mark on fourth grade and they have left footprints on my heart! I expect great things from each of them in the future and I know they will soar above any challenge put in front of them. They are ready to move forward on their learning journey, they go with my prayers and my belief that they each will make a positive and memorable difference in the lives they touch along the way! As they depart Flight 4B, they leave the echoes of, "do we have time to play Sparkle?", "can we read just one more chapter today?" "awwww, you always stop at the best part to keep us guessing", "what's the temperature, is it outdoor recess?" and the list goes on, as do the memories! Thank you for being a part of our journey! I hope you enjoyed the adventures as much as we did! I want to thank you for your trust, respect, cooperation, support, and patience this year as we took our crew on this learning journey! Times get crazy and hectic and I don't always pause to thank you as much as I should. You shared your most precious gift from God with me this year, and there are no words to fully express my appreciation for having the opportunity to be called their teacher! I wish you a safe and relaxing summer filled with even more adventures with family and friends! As you leave, my prayers of gratitude, health, and happiness go with you!

*Warmest Regards,
Mrs. B*

I am the queen of quotes; I can't get enough of them! I find there is always a perfect quote out there to comfort, celebrate, and inspire. There are so many I could end the year with, but this is the one I think I find says it best...

"Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness; kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smiles." – St. Teresa of Calcutta

Our crew did just that; I am better and happier for having shared this year with all of them!

