



Pond Cove School

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Principal
THOMAS EISMEIER

FEB 01 2011

January 31, 2011

Dear Dr. Murphy and Members of the Cape Elizabeth School Board:

I am writing to officially notify you of my intention to retire from teaching at the conclusion of the 2010-2011 school year.

My library career began as the Children's Librarian at the Thomas Memorial Library and concludes as the Library Media Specialist at Pond Cove School. Every day has been a joy. Every day has been an opportunity to nurture relationships and make new friends. Every day has been an affirmation of my belief that we are all life-long learners, insatiably reaching for new ideas and satisfying curiosities. I am so grateful to have been a member of Cape Elizabeth's dynamic and progressive educational community.

Thank you for sustaining the supportive environment that has inspired me to grow professionally as well as personally during my career. At every step, I have been encouraged to dream and empowered to take risks. I have known and understood that school board members, administrators, and colleagues shared the belief that success for one is success for all. I especially want to thank the visionary members of CEEF and the PCPA who have, over the years, responded enthusiastically and generously to every request my teammates and I have made. The collaborative climate within which we work allows us to make significant contributions to our educational system and further the success of our students and teachers.

One of my favorite children's books is *Miss Rumphius*, written by Maine author, Barbara Cooney. Ms. Cooney visited our school in the early 90's and talked with the children and staff about her classic story of a woman "making the world more beautiful" by planting lupine seeds. As she talked about the lupine, Ms. Cooney marveled that her favorite plant's growth from year to year was unpredictable. Some years the lupine were wildly abundant and other years they appeared sparsely across fields and along highways. What made the lupine so special to her was that when they did flourish, they would spring up far beyond places where they had been planted. Much like the lupine, Cape Elizabeth's students experience growth in the safe and nurturing environment of an excellent school system where they can falter or fly as they find their way. Clearly, the goal for all of us is to help them flourish far beyond where they have been planted.

It has been a privilege to be a member of a community so dedicated to children and their achievement. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Shari L. Robinson, Ed.D.