Dear Campus School Families:

I want to begin by thanking everybody for the wonderful turnout for Open House. Teachers so enjoy the opportunity to introduce you to the classroom and the curriculum. As a parent, I revel in the opportunity to poke around the classroom and hear about how my little guy spends his days. I also would like to thank the PTO for providing the refreshments.

So last night during the Carol Dweck lecture I looked across Sweeney Hall and I was struck by the diverse and eclectic audience that had convened. There were parents from our school, teachers from SCCS and the public schools, Smith College faculty and student teachers, and about 30 Springfield teenagers from Project Coach. As I scanned the crowd, it struck me that the presence of Smith College and its resources as a world-class liberal arts college figures prominently in who we are as a school. We are a small elementary school nested inside a dynamic college. This distinctive feature is exceptional and I started thinking about how Smith's presence indelibly imprints on our experience -- even in these first few weeks. Indulge me by scanning the following intersecting opportunities that have either occurred or are unfolding over the next several weeks:

• **Carol Dweck Lecture**: We had the opportunity to sponsor and attend a Smith lecture and then a coffee Q&A by a renowned Stanford psychologist doing important work around learning, motivation, and parenting.
• **Botanic Garden: Cultivating Young Botanists Project**: When college relations asked the botanical gardens to identify special projects to highlight for the Smith president's inauguration exhibition, they identified the long-standing collaboration between Penny Block, Janice Henderson and Professor Susan Etheredge. The project, which Professor (and Campus School parent) Shannon Audley-Piotrowski participated in last year involves students from the Foundations of Early Childhood class and kindergartners traveling to the Lyman Conservatory for inquiry investigation of leaves and bulbs.
• **Favorite Book Project**: Smith students in Professor Etheredges' Children Learning to Read class will be sharing cherished books from their own childhood with students from the Campus School. This project developed in collaboration with Karen McAmis and the PTO will help launch our book fair.
• **Peace Day**: On Friday afternoon, the specialists orchestrated a beautiful full-school assembly celebrating the [International Day of Peace](https://www.un.org/en/peaceday/). There is nothing more inspiring and hopeful than a chorus of childrens' voices. As I listened to the school singing about peace and kindness, I thought of how Campus School children get to meet and work with Smith students who live across the globe. This year we have Smith student teachers and other student workers from Mongolia, China, Korea, India, Slovakia, Botswana and more.
• **Smith College Art Museum**: The educational staff at the SCAM will be hosting our whole faculty for a lunch and professional development seminar in October. While we already make use of the presence of a world-class art museum 300 yards from our doors, we are excited about establishing new collaborative endeavors with the museum and the educational staff.
• **Campus School Garden Work Party**: The work party of parents and teachers were supported by a small army of Smith students recruited by Campus School parent Gaby Immerman. These students care deeply about providing opportunities for children to learn about food, plant cycles, and sustainability.
• **Smith College Athletics**: Just this week I corresponded with the assistant coach of Smith's nationally-ranked basketball team. She and her players hope to arrange a series of clinics for girls. More information coming soon...
• **Children's Visual Expression Exhibition**: As part of President McCartney's inaugural exhibition Campus School artwork will be featured at the Nolens Art Lounge at the Campus Center. The exhibit will display examples of children’s observation, planning, collaboration and reflection in many media, including sculptures, paintings and photographs.
• **Project Coach Soccer Clinic**: Smith graduate students, college students, and high-school aged coaches from Smith's out-of-school program, Project Coach, hosted a soccer clinic last Sunday for Campus School students on the turf field.
• Smith Engineers for a Sustainable World: The SCCS sustainability committee will be working in partnership with Smith engineering students to develop curriculum and undertake projects and activities.

• Young Adult Fiction and Poetry Project: Mr. Wiener and Ms. Colon-Bradt's sixth graders will undertake a six-week long literature project where they will join book groups with students from Professor Carol Berner's class focused on adolescent development and teaching. The small groups of readers and writers will engage in book discussions, writing assignments, and other projects.

In the near future, our students will also take trips to the science labs, performances sponsored by Smith, attend athletic events, and more. We are truly of Smith College in a myriad of ways that advances our learning. As a faculty member at Smith, I can also attest to how powerfully the presence of the Campus School shapes the learning of our college students. It is a true partnership.

Have a great weekend,

Sam