



# CIA for Girls

December 2017

NEWSLETTER

## ELLA LEADS THE WAY TODAY!

TIME AND THE RIGHT PLACE TO GROW

## Ella's Story

Most of us had yet to experience the speed of light; two years ago we did. Morning sunshine saturated every molecule of our one-room 'schoolhouse' on Jeff Davis Highway: from floor to skylights, creativity and joy coexisted in the art studio, reading room, science and nature room, math laboratory, drama stage, puppet theatre and kitchen/cafeteria - all between the same four walls. Students were engaged everywhere...projects on tables and floors. Then...this blonde streak of light entered our doorway from the shared hallway-our heads spun from hall door to courtyard door as hands held fast to projects. (Thank you, Ms. Audrey, for opening the door to outside!) Apparently, such speed of light was no other than our Ella. She visited us that day with her Mom and Grandma. I am uncertain if I actually saw her sweet face that day, as she ran and ran and laughed and ran some more for nearly two hours!

That day, Ella was two-years-old, as were we.

In our third year, we moved to Cascade Street. Ella, in the form of constant butterfly, fluttering light, joined us in March 2017 on an every-other-week schedule. Wide-eyed, she soaked up everyone's everything. Her body, still unwilling to embrace a moment of calm, somersaulted through morning gathering and tornadoed through peaceful, quiet time. We also mindfully scheduled our library walks on weeks shy of Ella, for her favorite pastime remained running free. Grandma introduced us to Ella's 'thinking chair' in which Ella could think about thinking... listening... being safe.

Autumn 2017, gave us the gift of Ella all our days! She is a selfless friend of tremendous depth. She is even more so attuned to everyone's everything and everywhen. She'll update you on

Ms. Betty's car in the shop and how it broke down on Clippenham Parkway. She'll ask you kindly why you are not wearing your glasses. Ella holds tightly to memories of all her classmates from last year and asks about them in quiet time. She is an eager student who not only participates in gathering - she motivates us all to get the day rolling! Ella loves to write and to **conduct** class conversations; she explores all classrooms and subjects with enthusiasm and joy. Ella has practically abandoned her thinking chair...although you might hear her say on an off-day, "Maybe I will listen tomorrow." Oh! and Ella is one of the best walking partners! As we journey through the neighborhood, she celebrates the day, exclaiming of the sunshine, the trees and flowers and the birds!

And Ella, holding tight to my hand, thank you, for keeping me safe!

by Amy Snow, Ella's Teacher

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