

THE BEDFORD CITIZEN

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

APRIL 8, 2016

It surely brings a smile and calming reassurance to my soul to read of the next transition for St. Paul's Weekday Nursery School. Congratulations to Sharon Healey on the upcoming position as Director of the preschool. To see that the original mission of the school, set 56 years ago, will continue is commendation to the staff and community.

I feel it is imperative to add an important historical fact to your news article (4/7/16). The success of St. Paul's Weekday Nursery School is directly linked to its founder, Jean McCaffrey. As a graduate of Tufts University with experience at their early childhood center, she began her own school, modeled after the Eliot- Pearson Center. As a tenant at the St. Paul's building she employed two teachers and together they taught 3 classes of 8 children. Tuition was \$15 per month. The population and expenses grew, but her beliefs remained steady. Treat each family with respect, compassion and work together to give children a happy, caring environment for a first school experience. And...she would always say "Mothers need a break!". Jean had a wonderful wisdom and humor. She appreciated the support of parents.

I was one of the parents, having had 2 children attend, when Jean hired me to teach in 1984. I knew that Jean believed I would handle the job. In a roomful of 36 bouncy 4 year olds I sometimes had disbelief! Yet, it developed into a love affair and I stayed, agreeing to become Director in Jean's succession in 1992. When I retired in 2008 Lee Frank became the 3rd Director in charge of the legacy. All that was written, and more, is correct. Lee is a beloved, caring leader.

So, my point is this - Thank You Mrs. McCaffrey for an enduring gift. We remember.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth M. Taylor