

By Debbie Archer

At the beginning of this pandemic, I found myself on the outside of my school, unable to walk into the building that had been my second home for so many years. In order to see my kidlets, I was left standing on the outside once again, dropping projects into mailboxes and pressing my hand against a window pane. But I found solace there too, in the outside; in the early morning silence broken by the chirping of the birds- sounds I hadn't heard or noticed before. They had been drowned out by airplanes overhead, or cars driving by, filled with neighbors rushing off to work.



There was comfort in that quiet sunshine, and the breezes around me. I learned to appreciate the world around me, to take the time to notice the changes as buds turned to flowers, and the trees filled in with a canopy of green.

I learned that my dogs loved having all of us home but didn't love walking more than three times a day.

I learned that friends who live far away can feel closer to me than people who live in the next town over.

I learned that Zoom can be a wonderful way to connect or unbelievably heartbreaking at a funeral because you can't hug anyone -and everyone needs those hugs.

I learned that we can adapt, we can restructure, we can survive, and we can find joy and ways to celebrate.

And I learned that it is indeed FINALLY time for me to retire from the little school that was my second home.

Wishing you all a safe, healthy and Happy New Year!

Debbie began teaching at the David Joshua Berg Nursery School at its inception, as an assistant teacher in the first three's class! Those kidlets are now pursuing careers and having families of their own! With Miss Zelda's encouragement, and Miss Jen's support, she has been a lead teacher of two's - and survived more than one "retirement", always to come back to this incredible little school.

