



APRIL 16 2020

Dear K Peas Friends,

In these last few weeks, our preschool class has studied letter I (at the start of our time of ISOLATION). Then we studied J. Indeed, we celebrated a sweet child named JOURNEE on 12-28-19 – the last party at K Peas Place. Her unique name highlighted a life-changing event as my husband was diagnosed with brain cancer on this very same day. K Peas Place began a new “journee” as we downsized. In March, we began to rebuild before COVID-19 which then embarked a new “journee” for all.

Now we come to this week, when our class studies the letter K. How delightful for me -- Miss KAREN -- as I celebrate my birthday during my letter week! You, as part of our K Peas Family, have become all the more dear during these times. Some of you know my story or parts of it. Others may not. Today, on my birthday, I want to share some of my story and let you know what for me would be a beautiful birthday gift from each of you.

April 16th is not only my birthday. It is also the day that my oldest son Mathew passed away in my arms at the age of 5. Mathew was diagnosed at age 2.5 with leukemia.

Another reason that the letter K this week is so poignant for me is that the Beach Boys’ song, KOKOMO is the song and the last dance Mathew and I danced to this very same week 12 years ago before he died. We all can feel a little off-KILTER just now. Remember to tell your KIDS that Miss KAREN would say KEEP your head up and chin up. Trust n the KNOWLEDGE that you can turn away for a moment from your KNOTTY not KNOWNs towards a KEEN desire to show KINDNESS towards others.

In honor of my birthday and the memory of my son Mathew, would you take a moment for KINDNESS today? Or write a short story as a KEEPSAKE by personalizing the story to include your family using as many Kk words you can THINK of? This story writing activity will ignite discussion in your home, you’ll reminisce and laugh together! I’d love to read your story and if you’re ok with me sharing publicly let me know or keep it for yourself! I have written one and will share too! Use your brain power (no googling) Have FUN!

Lastly, today and every day, KEEP your KIDS close to you for an extra snuggle and one more KISS. Pause some each day to turn away from the screens, the stress and the worries. Gather to play, laugh, and dance. These are our hidden blessings in a world suddenly slowed down. Let’s not forget these treasured memories and continue to create them even after things return to whatever “normal” ends up being after all this. If you like, send me a note about a KINDNESS you received or offered to another today. Then turn on KOKOMO and dance with your sweet family.

Love,
Miss Karen

