



In Remembrance:

Katie Smith Fields

January 27, 1954 - January 9, 2021

On January 9th, 2021 we received the sad news that Katie Smith Fields passed on from this life. For those of you who are not aware, her bonds with Beechwood School were strong and long lasting.

Katie was a beloved daughter of one of the founding families of our school, Jill and Boyd Smith. She saw the original ground-work started and foundations poured, both literally and figuratively. For many years she served on the Beechwood Advisory Board. Her voice helped shape school programs and instruction to give our students the best possible learning experience. She contributed to our parent education planning effort and was always open to modifying and improving the content. Over the last six years, she served as the California Family Foundation's Executive Director. She volunteered in that role and focused on our Housing Program and the Family Resource Center.



Her family, through the voice of her son Wilson, shared the following:

[...] Speaking as someone who was able to watch her spend her final days on earth, she indeed had no fear of dying. Her life has been shaped by her service and her gift to the world was her ability to be a mother to all. When she received the news her cancer had come back on November 23rd she was already aware this was the end for her and she bravely made peace with her eventuality right away. Any sadness she had about dying I now realize was about her leaving us behind. It was a privilege to have her as my mother.

Her presence will be sorely missed on our campus. Her volunteerism is something we can all strive to model as we continue to be aware of the world around us. I will miss her clear voice and willingness to sit at the table to make an idea a reality. We will miss her and do our best work as educators and lifelong learners to honor her memory.

Poem dedicated to Katie:

God looked around his garden
And found an empty place.
He then looked down upon the earth,
And saw your tired face.

He put His arms around you
And lifted you to rest.
God's garden must be beautiful,
He always takes the best.

He knew that you were suffering,
He knew that you were in pain.
He knew that you would never
Get well on earth again.

He saw the road was getting rough
And the hills were hard to climb.
So He closed your weary eyelids
And whispered "Peace be thine."

It broke our hearts to lose you
But you did not go alone...
For part of us went with you
The day God called you home.