

# Chicken Soup

for

## Friendswood ISD

I moved to Friendswood, Texas in 1992 when I was newly married. At the time, I only had 2 years of teaching experience under my belt. I taught for a few years, stayed home with my kids for a few years, then came back in 2001.

I receive so much joy seeing former students and it warms my heart that they can remember being in my class. I especially loved one particular meet and greet when one family came in to meet their teacher. I introduced myself to the student, met mom and turned to shake the hand of a handsome young man I assume is Dad. There was a recognition in his face, but the last name did not ring a bell. He skipped the handshake and with a huge smile, he embraced me in a hug and told me his name. He was the uncle to the student I was meeting and said he was so excited when he found out that his niece was going to be in 'Mrs. Dooley's class.'

He talked about being at Cline in my Kindergarten class along with some of the fun we had. He said he could not believe I was still at Cline and he just had to come and say hello. It literally made my day. Here was a 25-year-old young man, taking time out of his day to come back 20 years later and give his former teacher a hug! What an impact it made on me and helped me realize the impact that WE (teachers and students) have on each other.

On the flip side, I ran into a former parent at Cline as we were getting ready for Clinefest two years ago. We smiled and hugged each other, and she said, "Oh my goodness...You're STILL here." It's always good to have perspective and a good laugh.

-Gina Dooley, Cline Teacher