



Alumni Highlight – Renee Safran

We were fortunate to have Renee attend our most recent Celebration of Children as one of our alumni.

This is the speech she gave.

On my first day of school at Westmont, I remember learning how to use the handrail. The teacher who greeted me at the door - it was Mrs. Koch - told me to put my tote bag in one hand and hold onto the railing with the other. I felt really excited, but nervous. It was all new to me. I was about 3 ½ years old at the time. A little thing like navigating the front steps to school is a memory I will always remember because it was the start of my educational journey. And it's a memory of how Westmont made me feel - excited, respected, supported - even when I was scared to try something new. From this first day of school on, Westmont has been a part of my life. I had Mrs. Koch for two years of preschool and Mrs. Cross for kindergarten. I loved using the number chains, playing on the playground, and painting on the easel.

Attending The Peck School from 1st to 8th grade and now attending Kent Place School for high school, Westmont has given me the grounds for a great education. I was able to develop an ability to communicate with others as well as be self-sufficient in my work, which are two things that I will carry with me for my whole life.

Westmont has taught me to be independent and to be responsible for my own actions. This definitely will affect me for the rest of my life whether it is with managing schoolwork or, eventually, managing a career. In both situations, my Westmont education will allow me to have a sense of confidence inside, and outside, of school. I have also been able to form lasting friendships by attending Westmont. I met one friend while I was reading in the library and we still see each other to this day. I have been going back to Westmont every summer as a junior camp counselor. As I get older, and continue to go back as a counselor, I am able to realize how special Westmont is even more. Seeing the students communicate with each other as they prepare their snacks or resolve an argument with the peace rose makes me remember how much I love Westmont. Westmont has continued to have a special place in my heart ever since I first held onto the handrail and I am proud to be a Westmont alum.