

This One is for the Children

Yeah! School is finally over. Did you think it would ever end? Congratulations on another great year and your promotion to the next grade.

It doesn't matter how old I get, I still remember that wonderful feeling of having a whole summer off and the excitement of adventures to come. It was also a time for me to do things my school schedule didn't allow. It was in the summer that I learned to swim, learned to crochet, picked berries and made jam, baked muffins, read books (one summer I actually thought I could read all the books in the library!), organized neighborhood games and so much more. It was great fun.

So, what are your plans for the summer? I've come up with some ideas in case you are home wondering what to do: learn Michael Jackson's "Thriller" dance with your friends and make it into a video to post on YouTube; volunteer at the library; plan your entries for the Durham Fair; make a list of places you want to visit in your lifetime; organize a fundraiser for your favorite charity; write a poem or a book; volunteer at a food pantry; write a letter to President Obama and Governor Rell; plan a neighborhood block party complete with field day events; visit our local volunteer ambulance corps and fire company to learn about becoming a first responder; research the history of your house in the Town Clerk's vault; make a cookbook of your favorite recipes so that your Mom won't have to wonder what to make for dinner; better yet, learn to cook your favorite recipes; start a journal; make a scrapbook; learn how to make a scarf and make them for all your friends; read to patients in a nursing home; commit to an exercise program; set-up Wii tournaments; volunteer at the Durham Farmers' Market on Thursday afternoons; find a pen-pal in a foreign country; change your hair style; train for a road race; weed the garden; polish the furniture; re-decorate your room (after you've cleaned it, of course); tie-dye t-shirts; don't worry, be happy.

You probably have some plans but I hope some of my suggestions will help fill in your extra time. Try to be productive and positive. Choose activities that will make a difference in your life and maybe those of others. Stay away from negative and destructive behaviors such as painting the road signs all over town. Have you seen that? Please let your friends know it is not cool to deface town or school property. In addition to it making our town look lousy, it is a bad way to spend your parent's tax dollars.

Most of all, please be safe. You are an important part of our community and we want you to be healthy and happy. I know your teachers are looking forward to seeing you in September ready to learn, play and make new friends. Have a wonderful summer and a Happy 4th of July!