



Lexington Public Schools

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Our Schools Summer Vacation

June 16, 2008

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When I was in elementary school, every year my teacher would ask the students to write about their summer vacations. We were asked, "What did you do, what did you enjoy, and what did you learn?" For me, I learned some of my most important life lessons during the summer.

We all know that summer can be a wonderful time for children to relax and play, to go to bed late, and to spend evenings not doing or worrying about homework. For older students, summers provide opportunities to get a job and earn money for college.

As an educator, I see the summer as a time for children to develop life-long skills, which are as important as what we teach in academic classes. Summer is a time for children to develop or learn important skills that are not tested by the State or the College Board. Our ultimate goal as educators is to foster the development of children into thoughtful, independent adults who are self-sufficient, resilient, creative, and caring community contributors.

Last summer, I shared with you my suggested reading list. This summer, here is my suggested "play list" for your children. Pick three from the list, and your child will learn important life skills and have fun. The only catch is that regular reading must be on every child's list.

- Learn or develop new skills, such as swimming, boating, music, theater, or other arts and sports.
- Use unstructured days to think, ponder, dream, explore, and create.
- Learn to become more independent and accept more responsibilities.
- Practice negotiation skills with peers, without an adult to mediate.
- Make new friends.
- Travel and see new places.
- Get a job, be punctual, take personal responsibility, and learn to take orders from a boss.
- Read, Read, and Read.

I wish everyone a wonderful summer.