

SUMMERTIME, AND THE LEARNING CONTINUES

With the “turning of the tassel” after the awarding of diplomas, our Souhegan graduates leave school and go their separate ways. Some enter the armed services, others begin travel plans, and many start summer and full-time jobs. Most of our graduates, and for that matter, most of our students, go home. For the next two months, parents will be educating their children and we will not!

When I say that education for July and August rests in the parents’ hands, I really am challenging our families and citizens to make this summer productive and fun for each and every one of our kids. Education doesn’t just happen with the ringing of a school bell. There are plenty of opportunities for kids to learn and grow within their homes and community.

I could list many summer camps, reading programs, volunteer opportunities, summer schools, sports programs and other “organized” learning opportunities in our area that will educate our youth. You can access these through our school’s guidance program if you like.

Instead of focusing on these structured programs, I’d like instead to focus on the type of unstructured learning that only you as a family and neighbor can do with a child. For example, the time spent in a car on a long trip—even when it’s taking your child to a distant college—can be a unique opportunity to find out what he or she is really thinking. Or how about those moments that you show your neighbor boy how to do a summer chore for you? And one can’t forget those things that kids discover on their own when left with some lazy, unstructured time—absent the direction of coaches, camp counselors and teachers. These all are teachable moments.

Thoreau said, “Time is but the stream I go a-fishing in.” May you all have enough time this summer to do some great fishing on your own and come back to us next fall with some great catches!

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