

PP for Parents

22 May 2006

Frantic Finishers

Okay, I realize we're not supposed to be frantic about ending the school year, but there are a lot of unavoidable events and deadlines to meet! In my haste to plan Field Day, two graduations, the school convocation, post-service teacher training, in addition to inspecting teachers' rooms and checking off their end-of-year forms, I have a few parenting thoughts that I would be remiss in not sharing.

Summer Reading

Summer is a great time for reinforcing the pleasure of reading with your child. With too many media choices available, feel free to designate "reading days" (or hours) when no other stimulation is allowed. Once they grow accustomed to it, children will look forward to this respite from high-powered electronic entertainment. But it will take adult leadership to shepherd them past the lurking dragons of "cool" and "hip."

Travel Bonuses

I can't help overhearing lots of exciting travel plans among our families. With just a little extra effort you can often add an historical site or other educational aspect to your travels. One of my son's favorite memories is our trip to the Space Museum at White Sands, New Mexico. It definitely inspired more interest in science, and reinforced the leaning toward astronomy that a couple of them have continued to express in their adult lives.

That dastardly youth culture

Note that both the above suggestions presume we are families who are in control of our children. For those who have not yet surrendered their children to the prevailing youth culture, here is great motivation to build family-centered values:

<http://www.wittenberghall.com/holytrinityclassical/>

Scroll down to the article, "What's on that iPod?" Enjoy!