

May 24, 2011

Dear Dutchess Day Parents,

According to those who keep careful track of these things, there are 12 days until graduation. It is hard to think that this very busy school year is almost over. Dorothy, Toto and the magical book fair, our many concerts, art exhibitions, 3 seasons of athletic events, creative theatrical productions, skiing, skating, snow closings, science fairs, robotics competitions, class trips, dances, and of course the fabulous, beautifully organized auction are all becoming memories of the 2010-2011 school year. Again I thank all of those who made these many events possible.

Amazingly, even with all of these activities, we are not done yet. On Sunday, May 29, from 12-4 p.m., we will hold a casual family lawn concert where The Zucchini Brothers, and Jay Ungar and Molly Mason will entertain. We also invite you to the 8th grade play scheduled for Friday, June 3 at 7:30 p.m. and the final assembly on Friday, June 10 at 1:30 p.m. when Nigel Pink will provide the sports wrap up, the 8th graders will unveil the yearbook dedication, and we will thank Colleen Howland for stepping in when needed to help out with admissions. Finally, we hope you will join us for graduation on Saturday, June 11, at 10:00 a.m. when we celebrate and reluctantly say good-bye to our 8th graders.

With the exception of Barbara Bettigole who is taking a well-deserved year sabbatical, all of our dedicated teachers will be returning next year. During Barbara's absence, Amanda Ackers is looking forward to taking on the role of 4th grade homeroom teacher. Diana Bestiero will be missing the first term as she welcomes her new baby, but fortunately Emilie Dyson, our former 2nd grade teacher, has agreed to cover her class until she returns.

We hope your child is planning to attend our new and very exciting summer enrichment program in June or the helpful booster program at the end of August. Please contact Gayle Fedele if you have questions about either program.

Over the summer, in addition to the normal maintenance and preparation for next year, Vanessa Park and I will be working on our 10-year accreditation report for NYSAIS, which, thanks to the hard work of parents, teachers, board and staff is already in rough draft form. We expect the visit from the assessment team in mid-October.

While summer is a time for relaxing and enjoying family time, it is important that your child read. You will find reading lists enclosed and on our web site. You might find it fun to read a book together. Whether you read pages aloud to each other or you discuss the book at breakfast, it is a natural and easy opportunity to share an experience with your child.

Also enclosed you will find information, and forms which should be completed and returned to the office. The forms are also posted on our web site. I look forward to seeing you at one of our varied remaining events. Best wishes for a wonderful summer.

Yours Sincerely,

Nancy Hathaway
Head of School