

12/18/08

Principal's Corner

The beauty of December lies not only in the many holiday traditions and celebrations we enjoy, but also in the time we have to spend with our children. The summer days we spent with them—unscheduled, unhurried (and without the demands of homework!) are a distant memory now, but December holds the promise of a little bit more of that kind of time.

If you are celebrating a holiday, the coming two weeks may be filled with hours spent cooking, shopping, and visiting with friends and family. But hopefully, there will be days when you will be able to enjoy some quiet mornings, afternoons, and evenings with your children.

My two children are twenty and seventeen now. As I look back on school vacations, I am grateful that I slowed the pace of our lives during that time. I am grateful for the leisurely hours we spent together---going for walks at a nearby nature preserve, browsing through books at our public library, visiting local museums, and playing Yahtzee, Scrabble, and Pictionary. I always read a chapter book to them on winter break, too. I read the stories aloud, allowing them time to think and imagine...and we talked...without worrying about the time. I read aloud to my children all the way through elementary school. It didn't matter that they could read the books themselves. The read-aloud time was their time to relax and become part of a story, and our time to talk about the choices the characters made, or the events of other people's lives (which always connected to our own). The time we spent was as important and memorable as the holiday traditions we enjoyed.

I hope your holidays are joyful and peaceful. And as 2008 comes to a close, I wish you long, happy vacation days with your children.

Happy New Year!

Warm regards,

Mrs. Herschlein