

The Importance of Ending the School Year Well

This time of year, book bags are getting heavy. Patience is wearing thin. We are rushing to complete lesson plans. As the school year comes to a close, most of us simply want to fast-forward through the days until we see the glorious summer sun.

However, we owe it to our children and our students, to finish the year strong. My message to my staff is “last impressions are lasting impressions, let’s finish strong.” To teach our kids the importance of ending the school year well, there are a few things we can do to make the most of this past year.

One of the greatest ways for your child to process the ups and downs of this school year is through reflection. This will not only help them sort out any unaddressed emotions but will also help them grow.

- Cheers & Challenges Nights – To start the conversation, having a “Cheers & Challenges” night to share any positive or difficult memories is an easy way for kids to reflect. Feel free to share your own cheers and challenges too! When kids see and hear you reflecting, it will help them phrase their own emotions.
- Growth Goals – When reflecting, it’s normal for kids to recall some areas that are still challenging for them. For example, if your child mentions they’re struggling in math, you can help him or her create a growth goal and display it somewhere in your home. Have them decorate an index card with their goal and check in with them throughout the summer on their progress.

In an era of “No Child Left Behind” and state-wide proficiency exams like MCAS it’s easy focus on proficiency rather than remembering “*Children Only Have One Childhood.*”

In a time when gaps in learning is all educators read about in educational newsletters, let’s choose to remember our kid’s childhood, certainly different than the ones we lived through. First, they had to go through a pandemic that shut down the world for months. Technology has both enhanced our lives while

Important Dates

School Closed

Monday, June 19th



**Final Day of
NYA 2022-23**

Thursday, June 22nd



**First Day of NYA
Summer 2023**

Monday, June 26th



making them more difficult; the list goes on. While there will be dozens of opportunities for your child to grasp the academic content, the time for making memories in this school year is soon ending. Don't let the push for proficiency overwhelm the end of the school year.

Part of a successful closure is saying "thank you" to those who have helped us along our journeys. Everyone wants to be recognized and appreciated for their hard work. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the NYA staff for bringing their best to the table day in and day out even when we were short staffed. I want to thank the teachers and staff of Eddy and Stony Brook for being strong partners. I thank Brewster Rec for their collaboration as we work together to support the youth of Brewster. I thank all the parents who have entrusted their children with us. I thank all of the students who bring their energy, curiosity, passion, and their uniqueness to NYA. Finally, I want to thank the 5th graders who started as kindergarteners. They started school my first year leading NYA and it has been an honor and privilege to see their growth and development these past six years. You will be missed!

It's tempting to rush through the final days of school. But to finish the year strongly, we must slow it down by remaining fully in the present moment. In an instant, these days will be behind us, and our kids will be in the next grade.

In a few short weeks this school year will be end. Let's end it well!

Adapted from *The Parent Cue*

Please put your child's name in clothing they might remove while at NYA, i.e., coats, sweatshirts, mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, winter boots, etc. If there is a name in them, we can reunite the clothing with your child. Use a marker to write their name on a label, get preprinted labels and iron them in, etc. It would be a shame if a child were to lose a holiday gift from Santa, parents, grandparents... We also request that you put their name on water bottles. We would love to have a completely empty lost and found basket. Thank you!

