

# Full Circle...

by Rodge F. Wilson

And so we've done it again. We close in quickly on the end of another school year. And while there are still five weeks of classes left, this is likely the last opportunity for reflection. The May edition will be a plethora of celebrations. We will find Western Front's pages spilling with tribute to all of our scholars and athletes, and we will exult in the adventures facing those young people leaving school to strike out on their own for the first time.

This is the time I spoke about last August. When you're looking ahead towards summer and you're looking forward to your children having a break from the pressures and routines of school. This is the time when even the most sacred family meals often find a head or two missing from around the table. The kids are busy with part time jobs, studies, sports, and other extra-curricular activities. The younger ones are off at the neighbors riding bikes or in the middle of a pickup game of ball. Ah, "it will be nice to have them home for a little while..."

Beware. This is also the time for negotiations. "Can't I stay up for another hour...it's still light out..."--- "I promise I'll do it, right after Dancing With The Stars..."--- "I'm so tired, can't I stay home today, we're not doing anything anyway..."

To be truthful, they get it honest. "Honey, Daddy had to work late tonight, can we take a bike ride tomorrow instead..."--- "Yes, I know you can hardly get them buttoned, and everyone can see your socks, but can't you make that pair of jeans last another few weeks...schools almost out" --- "I understand your tennis shoes are falling apart, but it's almost time for sandals..." We teach them well.

But as this year has shown, sometimes the game is won in the last two minutes; sometimes the race is won in the last hundred yards; and sometimes it's the bottom of the ninth that tips the scales. School is no different. The achievement tests are over but that doesn't mean the lessons have stopped. Please encourage them to finish this year with even more determination than they started it with. This is the true sign of character and excellence. You have shown them that as well.

As the year winds down, we will continue to challenge them and give them structure and guidance at school. We are already meeting and making plans for next year. You keep up the good work at home, and together, we can ensure another successful season. Thank you Western Reserve.



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