Mentor/Mentee Summer Communication

We sincerely hope all mentors are planning to return for the next school year! There are no activities planned for the summer but research suggests that when you’re planning to continue the relationship it’s beneficial for both students and mentors to try and stay in touch over the summer break.

Programs have developed a variety of strategies to help mentors and students keep in touch. Some suggested activities include:

* For elementary students, or secondary students without electronic communications options: Give the student 3 or 4 addressed and stamped envelopes (or postcards) and ask him/her to write a note or letter periodically during the summer. You might want to use this opportunity to discuss the importance of hand written notes and how to use the postal system.
* Give the student a small notebook/journal and ask him/her to write down thoughts, summer events, etc. Sharing their writings will provide a beginning activity when you reunite in the fall.
* Give the student a small pocket calendar and mark off the weeks until school reopens. This will allow them to understand scheduling and calendar use.

Other suggestions:

Whatever methods used to keep matches alive over the summer months, recent research indicates that communicating biweekly or monthly can be very effective in sustaining the relationship into the following year (Herrera, 2007).