

Office of the Governor

PO BOX 004
TRENTON, NJ 08625

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Steffanie Bell
609-777-2600

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Governor's Weekly Radio Message Challenges Kids to Keep Learning Through the Summer

Gov. Christie Whitman provides a weekly radio message to radio stations throughout the state. Each week, the message focuses on a different concern or event of interest to New Jerseyans

This week Gov. Whitman encourages New Jersey kids to keep learning even though summer break is here. The Governor challenges students to exceed whatever summer reading list they may have been given by their teacher. Gov. Whitman also tells them of the many sites around the state they can learn from such as the Liberty Science Center, Ellis Island and the State Aquarium in Camden.

Attached is a text of the message.

The radio address can be accessed by calling the Governor's actuality line at 609-292-3249. It will be available today, beginning at noon, and will run through the weekend.

Radio Message for June 11 School's Out, Learning's In

Hello, this is Governor Christie Whitman with a special message to the school children of New Jersey.

For most young people in New Jersey, the month of June signals the end of the school year and the start of your summer vacation. Months of hard work and homework will give way to backyard Whiffle ball games, afternoon dips in the swimming pool, and family vacations to the Jersey Shore or other destinations.

I want to wish all of you a wonderful, memorable, and safe Summer of '99.

I also want to encourage you to keep your brains in gear this summer. Don't let the last day of school be the last time until September that you think about history, science, or geography, about math, art, or reading.

One way to stimulate your mind is to plan a few trips with your family or friends to enlightening places that will teach, inform, and even inspire you. Visit the Liberty Science Center, or Ellis Island, or the State Aquarium in Camden.

Learn about our place in history by attending the reenactment of the Battle of Monmouth later this month.

Learn about our place in the universe one Saturday evening at Jenny Jump State Park, where the United Astronomy Clubs of New Jersey hold weekly public astronomy presentations, weather permitting.

Or learn about wildlife on a guided nature hike in Wharton State Forest.

These are just a few of the many educational day trips you can take within New Jersey. And these experiences will get you thinking and help you apply the lessons you've been learning in school.

Of course, there is another important place I hope you will visit again and again this summer - a starting point for hundreds of adventures and a world of discoveries.

I'm talking, of course, about your local public library.

Many schools ask their students to read a certain number of books during the summer. I challenge you to go beyond your summer reading list. Get in the habit of reading for pleasure, not just for school. It will be one of the best things you can do for yourself. It can be the first step you take on a lifelong journey of learning.

I'm not trying to suggest that you spend all your summer with your head in a book or going on a two-month field trip. Summers are still for enjoying ice cream cones and pickup games, boogie boards and soccer camps. But they can also be a special time for making the important lessons you have learned this year truly come to life.

So give your brain some exercise and make it a perfect summer.