

Hurricane Claudette Couldn't Dampen Spirits During Summer Camp 2003!

For more pictures
of Summer Camp,
please see
pages 4,5,6,7



A summer camper stretches his arms and legs to reach the next platform. This is just one of the many COPE course events mastered by all summer campers this year.

Inside this Issue

2

Athletic Equipment Donated

8

Football News

9

Alumni News

Hurricane Claudette, which meandered around in the Gulf of Mexico for days, didn't seem to bother any of the campers during the Marine Military Academy's 2003 Summer Camp. However, she did manage to make staff members at Academy very nervous. Making landfall north of Corpus Christi, everyone, including many parents, were finally able to breath a sigh of relief and get down to the business of having another successful Summer Camp 2003!

The MMA Summer Camp program began June 29 with approximately 340 boys from 32 states. Additionally, boys from Mexico, Canada, Czech Republic, China, New Zealand, Japan, Russia, Phillipines, Saudi Arabia, Germany, United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom attended. After regis-

tration, campers were placed in platoons, according to age. English as a Second Language (ESL) campers were also divided into two platoons.

Each day began with reveille at 0550, followed by physical training and then first mess. Mornings and afternoons were reserved for intense military activities and events. In addition to close order drill, campers faced such challenges as the mud course, obstacle course, paintball combat, the confidence course, the Leadership Reaction Course, rappelling, the climbing wall, boxing and pugil stick fighting. Sports activities were held in the evenings that in-

Continued on page 10

Diagnostic Equipment Donated By MMA Trustees

Due to the generosity of numerous Board of Trustee members and friends of the Academy, the Marine Military Academy is now the proud owner of a world class Human Performance Laboratory (HPL).

Dr. George Dohrmann, MMA Trustee, and Dr. David Durrant of the Chicago Neuroscience Institute, proposed such a laboratory for the Academy. "The Academy is a good location for the implementation of such a laboratory because of the disciplined physical regimes and dedication of the staff and cadets to raising human potential," said Dr. Dohrmann. "The lab would be

equipped with state-of-the-art technology for the evaluation of human physical performance, with emphasis placed upon the assessment of neuromuscular performance."

After Dr. Dohrmann made a presentation to the Board of Trustees, it was agreed that the proposed HPL would be set up at MMA, to be ready and functional in August. The cost of the proposed equipment was \$60,895. Believing in the project, the proposal was approved. By the completion of the Board meeting, funds had been pledged to cover the entire cost.

Funds were donated to cover the cost of the equipment, delivery, setup and training. Mr. James E. Warren, Jr., Chairman of the Board, along with Mrs. Evelyn East, Miss Alice East, General Al Gray, Mr. Craig Matteson, Mr. Mike Bradley, Mr. Dick Moore and Maj Edgar Aronson, Mr. Jim Ezell, Ms. Lica East Pinkston, LtGen James F. Hollingsworth and Mr. V. Dal Shealy, donated funds for the Human Performance Laboratory.

"With this new laboratory, we will be able to test and evaluate the strength of our ca-



Director of Facilities, David Miller, helps set up one of the new pieces of equipment for the Human Performance Laboratory in the Peacher Memorial Cadet Activity Center.

dets," stated MajGen Wayne E. Rollings, President of the Academy. "We will be able to target the weaknesses of the cadet and show him where he needs to improve through an individual training program."

Categories of neuromuscular testing include strength, power, endurance, range of motion, flexibility, torque, re-

action time, velocity based performance, range of motion specific performance, balance and coordination.

With the extensive testing and the data generated, the cadets will understand the benefits of disciplined exercise and training and instill confidence and enhance the physical and athletic potential of cadets at the Marine Military Academy.

Famed Sculptor of Marine Memorial Dies

Felix de Weldon, whose sculpture of Marines raising the flag on Iwo Jima is one of the world's best-known memorials to valor, died June 2, 2003 at a nursing home in Woodstock, Virginia. De Weldon was 96.

Inspired by a Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph by Associated Press photographer Joseph Rosenthal, Dr. de Weldon's massive Marine Corps War Memorial took hundreds of assistants, and more than nine years, to complete. The original plaster statue of the flag raising on Iwo Jima, from which the bronze castings were made for the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Virginia, is now part of the campus at the Marine Military Academy. It draws thousands of visitors annually and is a source of pride for the Academy.

The Vienna-born sculptor, after seeing Rosenthal's famous photo said, "I immediately recognized its great symbolism. I thought the unison of action, the forward drive, the will to sacrifice, and the tremendous power of those Marines would imme-



De Weldon, shown with one of the massive arms of the Iwo Jima Memorial during construction.

diately capture the imagination of the American people like nothing else."

De Weldon created more than 1,200 public works that are on display on seven continents, including Antarctica. He was Jacqueline Kennedy's choice to create a bust of her slain husband, President John F. Kennedy, for the Kennedy Library in Boston. The artist's bronze bust of Elvis Presley was unveiled at Graceland on what would have been the singer's 60th birthday.

The Academy expresses its heartfelt sympathy to the family of this great artist.

MMA LEADER

Published monthly by the
MMA PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
320 Iwo Jima Blvd
Harlingen, Texas 78550
(956) 423-6006, ext. 235
Web Site: <http://www.mma-tx.org>
Email address: farris@mma-tx.org
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
Robin Ewbank Farris

PAO Secretary
Connie G. Flores

English As A Second Language Program Brings Boys Together from All Over The World For Learning and Fun

ESL 2003 enrolled 43 students from Mexico, China, the United Arab Emirates, Japan, and the Czech Republic. Heading ESL was MMA foreign language department head, Dr. Mary Ricciardi.

"Many of our ESL students were quite young this time, but they were enthusiastic and courageous and did a great job with all of the Summer Camp-type activities, as well as working hard in all of their ESL classes," stated Dr. Ricciardi.

Dr. Ricciardi taught science and current events, while Mrs. Chapman taught reading and basic ESL skills, Mrs. Wood taught grammar and composition, and Mrs. Dye



taught speech and basic U.S. History. The program also had guest lectures by Dr. Rhoda, Coach Swinnea and his friends who are Texas State Troopers, and Mr. Mahoney.

The ESL students were delighted when Mrs.

Wood ran through the Mud Course, along with them. Mrs. Chapman and Mrs. Dye went rappelling, and Mrs. Dye and Dr. Ricciardi took pictures of several of the ESL activities.

"We are happy to have a number of the ESL students back with us for the full school year," said Dr. Ricciardi. "We hear that those who were too young to enroll this year will be back as soon as they are ready for 8th grade."



MMA BAND PREPARES FOR A BIG YEAR

The MMA Band has been busy preparing for their best year yet. With a larger more talented band, they will look and sound stronger than last year.

Summer Band Camp was a great success with several new band members attending this year. All of the Cadets that attended Band Camp this summer learned a great deal about developing their talent, good practice habits, even getting some pedagogy lessons on their various instruments. As usual, a great deal of time was spent on learning music and basic marching skills. Band Camp certainly was a lot of hard work, but the boys got to have some fun too. On one of the days they all went to South Padre Island and spent the day on the beach. It was a great day on the beach complete with a barbeque lunch with more than enough hamburgers and hot dogs.

Chief Warrant Officer Ed Harris, Band Director at MMA, anticipates this being the best year the band has had in quite a



long time. He says, "We've got so much more talent this year with so many new cadets that play well. After the first week of school we already look good marching and sound stronger than is typical for this early in the school year. I'm very excited about the prospects of this year's band. Our cadet leadership is more sound and energetic than ever before too."

Watch for the MMA Marching Leatherneck Band to hit the streets with some power this year! They should be hitting the streets at about 45 members strong this year and they are certain to bring some new and great music to all of the many events they have this year. These events include the New Orleans Mardi Gras "Krew of Endymion" Parade which they were invited to march in. The Leatherneck band has also been invited to the Cotton Bowl, and to the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade.

The Band's slogan for this year is:

"EITHER PLAY OR GET OUT OF THE WAY"

Summer Camp 2003 Photo Album



This is just a small sampling of
SUMMER CAMP 2003 activities.
Check out our website
mma-tx.org
under "what's new"
for additional pictures





We asked campers. . .

"Give your thoughts about Summer Camp 2003!"

Rogelio Leal
16
Monterrey,
Mex.

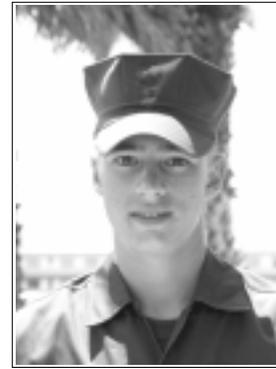


"I think this summer camp was a great experience. I will never forget it! I made good friends and I learned a lot of things and it made me a better person. The confidence and obstacle courses were EXCELLENT!"

Robert Motheral
14
Kerrville, Tx.



"Next year, the morning PT runs should be longer and faster. The paintball course was fun, but I think the concrete house should be made into a fort. I'd like to see the rappelling tower higher next year. Make camp harder next year - all around! "



Nikolas Kurmadas
17
Cypress, Tx.
"The courses were fun and I enjoyed them a lot! Some of the things we did we didn't do very often, but overall, ev-

everything was excellent and educational. The Crucible could have been a lot more challenging and I wish it had lasted all night. The movies were very enjoyable."

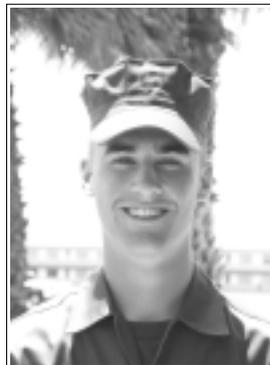


Jonathan Tripi
14
Newport Beach, CA.

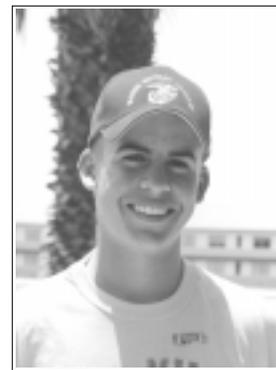
"I liked the rappelling, COPE course and the speed march reaction course.

I really liked the movies, the rifle range and the survival classes!"

Clayton O'Connor
17
Houston, Tx.



"The Crucible needs to be longer. The activities were challenging, but I think there needs to be more stations that test what we learned. I think that everyday activities should be more challenging - the runs should be longer and faster! ."



Alex Austin
15
Oak Hills, CA
" I liked summer camp a lot! I especially liked the cadet instructors and the drill instructors. This summer

camp helped me become an even better person. It was a very enjoyable event. "

Casey Manning
15
Highland Lakes, NY



"I think this is a good camp that builds confidence and raises self-esteem. I would recommend coming to camp here and coming to school here also! My favorite activity was the boxing matches."

Stephen Hesse
15
Houston, Tx.



"I thought some of the Cadet Instructors needed to chill out! The obstacle course, the league play and movies were excellent!"

Ovidio Guterrez
13
Hidalgo, Tx



"I think we need more time for high events like the COPE course and the rappelling tower. A lot of kids are scared and waste a lot of time up there! I also liked the boxing and mud course. They were excellent!"



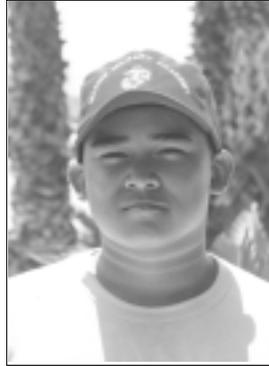
David Anderson
16
Grosse Pointe, MI.

"Overall I had a great time here while learning self discipline and getting physically and mentally fit. Aero-

space was fantastic and provided a much needed break from the activities at Camp. Thanks MMA!"

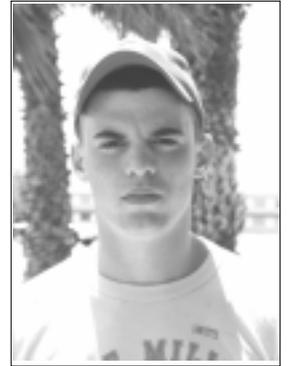
Romeo Resurrecion
16
Houston, Tx.

"I just had fun with the whole summer camp! It was such a fun program, even though I got a little injured. I really felt great about myself after everything I tried to accomplish. The Iron Man and Crucible should be longer next summer!"



Brandon Daniel
17
Victoria, Tx

"Overall I had a blast! I'm now at the peak of my physical condition and feel more confident with life in general. The paintball and boxing were my favorite. I feel that this summer camp has helped me to mature and grow as a leader. It taught me to work as a team and help guide my platoon to success. I highly recommend this camp to anyone who wants to have fun!"



Alberto Yamin
16
Toluca, Mexico

"I enjoyed everything about this summer camp. I had a good time. They made us work a lot, always keeping us very busy. I had a lot of fun. I really didn't like the drill practice... standing outside and doing those boring things."



Clayton Kline
14
Bellaire, Tx

"Personally, I think the mud course should be longer - a lot longer! Also, there should also be a time of day where everything is open and campers can go where ever they want! THIS CAMP WAS GREAT! I'm glad it's almost over, but I HAD FUN!"



Neeraj Singla
13
Houston, Tx.

"This camp was definitely worth the money my parents spent! I liked the activities and events. I am really looking forward to

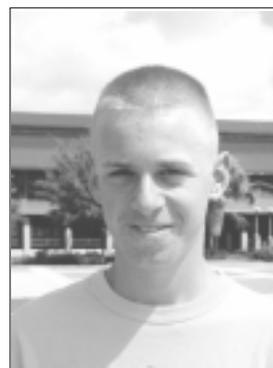
coming back for camp and maybe here for school. My least favorite things were the drill evaluations and survival skills. "



Guillermo Franklin-Melhem
15
San Fernando, Mex

"I liked all of the activities.. rappelling, swimming, obstacle course, paintball, etc.

I also liked Cadet Instructor Manuel Barba. He worked us hard but was very good. I didn't like breakfast because I don't like eggs!"

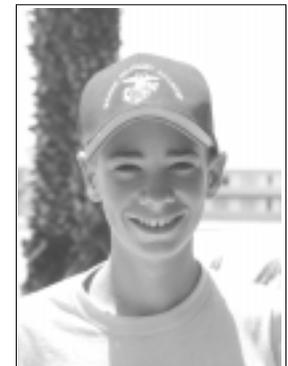


Peter Valka
15
Prava, Czech Republic

"This is the second year that I have been to summer camp here at MMA. This year is better for me because I already know what to expect. I come here because I know it helps me with my English, but it also helps me with self discipline. After last year, I could see a much better change in my attitude. I really liked the mud course and the "O" course. I wish we had longer to eat in the mess hall!"

DavidMartens
14
Kerrville, Tx.

"This camp has been hard, yet fun! I had a great time! The best things about camp were the confidence course, the obstacle course, the COPE course and the climbing wall."



A Word from MMA Leatherneck Coach Tom Morton

Football players reported to pre-season camp on August 3, 2003 at the Marine Military Academy. Three-a-day workouts began Monday, August 4 and ran until Friday, August 8. Twenty-eight new players joined the twenty returnees from last year's squad. After registration on August 9, ten more players reported for try-outs, bringing the total number to fifty-eight.

According to Head Football Coach and Athletic Director Tom Morton, there are four offensive and six defensive

starters returning from last year's 8-3, State Quarterfinals team. Leo Deng, Josh Gasaway, Shawn Smith, Omeed Ghaffarian and Andrew Winney are the defensive starters while Adam Gilles, Emmanuel Hawkins, Nick Keating and Ryan Soqui are the offensive starters.

After a punishing week of three-a-days, Coach Morton was pleased with the overall team effort and enthusiasm. "It will be very difficult to replace several of last year's senior players," stated Coach, "but there are some gifted newcomers and several second teamers from last year who will be called upon to fill key positions."



The quarterback position will be filled by Mike Sancehz or Ryan Soqui, while the receiving corps left vacated by three seniors will be replaced by Winston Elliott, Leo Deng, Jamahl Randle, Ohmeed Ghaffarian and newcomers Chris Dietz or Matthew Radzavich.

The lone returning offensive lineman is Adam Gilles, but he will get support from Brian Simpson or Chris Maldonado at center. Alberto Pina and Andrew Winney will be at the tackle positions. Rounding out the offensive line will be first-year players Joshua Denny at left guard and Gates Griffis at right tackle.

Nick Keating will return at the starting full-back position, while two-year starter Emmanuel Hawkins is back for his senior year after rushing for over 1,000 yards the previous two seasons.

MMA's defense will be solidified with six returning starters. The secondary will consist of Ryan Soqui, Chris Dietz, Leo Deng, Jason

Myers, Matthew Radzavich and Winston Elliott. Defensive tackles Anthony Pusch, Bonner Lovern, Adam Gilles and Chris Maldonado will fight it out for the starting two spots, while Alberto Pina, Markus Werner, Gates Griffis, Matthew Pritchett and Donald Spiering will do battle for the defensive end positions.

The entire linebacking corps of Ohmeed Ghaffarian, Shawn Smith, Josh Gasaway and Andrew Winney is all back, but being pushed by Scott Miller and newcomers Jason Quinn and Lloyd Prince.

Coach Morton believes that with "a lot of hard work and a little luck" early in the season, the Leathernecks will be in the hunt for the district race and return to the play-offs!

2003 Football Schedule Go Leathernecks!

September

4	Univ. of Tamaulipas	Home	5:00
12	Lyford High School	Home	7:30
19	Progreso High School	Away	7:30

October

3	Laredo LBJ	Home	7:00
10	St. Anthony (San Antonio)	Away	5:00
24	Antonian College Prep*	Away	7:30
31	St Joe Brownsville**	Home	7:30

November

7	St. Joseph (Victoria)*	Away	7:30
---	------------------------	------	------

* District Games ** Homecoming/Parent's Weekend



FOOTBALL CAMP 2003 held early morning and late afternoon practices in hopes to beat South Texas rising temperatures. Fifty-eight hopefuls survived the weeklong camp.

Alumni News

Where are they now?

'72

Robert R.(Rocky) Parker - Rocky.Parker@smes.org C/O St. Margaret's Episcopal School, 31641 La Novia, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675 (949) 661-0108 ext 689. Recently sent an update on what's going on with him. Graduated from Vanderbilt Univ with Masters in 1990. Served from '76-'96 as an 0302 in the USMC. Retired as a Major from the USMC as CO of H&S Battalion, School of Infantry, Camp Pendleton, CA in 1996. Was found and first Senior Marine Instructor at Orange High School MCJROTC from 1996-98. Hired on at St Margaret's Episcopal School in '98 and is teaching AP US Government, AP Geography and International Relations. Also is the varsity golf coach for boys and girls. Plans on doing a half-ironman triathlon for 50th birthday in February. Married to the former Catherine Yoder and resides in Dana Point, CA. Two children, Emily, a sophomore attending San Jose State University and son Hutch, a senior at SMES.

'74

LtCol Warren Driggers - DriggersWI@i-mef.usmc.mil - Back at Camp Pendleton. Finally transferred from 11th MEU after 5 years and 4 deployments (to include Iraq) returned at end of May. Only had to do "seabag drag about 100 yards across the parade deck to check into I MEF." G-7 are the ones who do all the training for the MEUs before they deploy. "Instead of getting evaluated, I am now one of the evaluators." Will probably be last billet before retiring in a couple of years. Still hasn't decided "what I want to be when I grow up." Still exploring options.

Rick Hawkins - RHAWK56@aol.com Now the proud father of an MMA cadet. Son Jason is a junior, going through plebe training. "Boy, have things really changed at the Academy since I attended. Our plebe training lasted until the Birthday Ball, but probably wasn't as intense as the 30-day crash course these kids get today." Says it is "very much worth the expense." Very impressed with General Rollings. Sees he truly

has a love and enthusiasm for the Academy and the well being of the cadets.

'80

David Hankins - dhankins@progressrail.com; Just moved into a new house - complete with a barn and 6.5 acres. Will be getting some horses, goats, chickens and cows in the spring. New address is 8724 North 100 West, Wheatfield, IN 46392. Phone is (219) 956-2558.

'83

Major Michael D. Holmes - mike.holmes1@us.army.mil; When last wrote, was on way to Nacogdoches to teach ROTC at Stephen F. Austin Univ. However, "life has thrown me a little curve ball." Is now getting ready to deploy to Kosovo - leaves Texas in October. Until then, "I am jetting around the world getting troops, family, leaders and myself prepped for about a year overseas.

'86

Jay Love - 10600 4th Street North #1105, St Petersburg, Florida 33716 (727) 563-0051. Was sorry to hear about Gunny Ski. "When I remember MMA, he's the first. It will be strange to think of the Academy without him there." Is working for HSN.com - home shopping network. Likes the new company and the area is absolutely beautiful.

'87

Major Robert R Scott - Executive Officer, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, 3rd MARDIV (-) (REIN) Box 63012 MCBH K-Bay, HI 96863-3012. (808) 257-5166. Has new email address: scottrr@mcbh.usmc.mil

'87

Ricardo van Wielink - Still living in Cancun, Mexico. Is now CFO for ULTRAMAR, passenger ferry company just starting up in Cancun. Hopes to make it to the 2004 reunion. Still married to Vivian and now has four kids - Ricky (8), Andres (7), Valery (4) and Patrick (10 months). Wanted to send condolences to Gunny Ski's family.

David Dils - 2501 Oak Hill Circle #3023, Ft Worth, Texas 76109 david.w.dils@lmco.com work:(817) 762-2087; home: (817) 923-3291. Working as an electrical engineer with Lockheed Martin Aeronautics. Have spoken to Kyle Vaughn, seems he is pursuing his computer engineering degree while continuing to work as a lawyer in Houston. He has a very nice wife and a new baby. Still looking for Kevin R. Harris - Any info?

'92

Mark A. Kiefer - graduated in May from the University of Tennessee College of Medicine. Will be entering a general surgery residency.

'03

Jared Spencer - USNA - PO Box 11601, Annapolis, MD 21412-11601. Finishing up plebe summer. Before leaving to the USNA, received his student pilot's license. "The Navy keeps us REAL busy. We wake up at 0530 for two hours of PT - harder than MMA has seen." Photo left shows Spencer marching off after Induction Ceremony.



Calendar of Events

Memorials

LtGen Alpha L. Bowser, USMC (Ret)
Maj Forrest E. Caudle, USMC (Ret)
Howard Finn
Paula Frizzell
LtCol Paul Kellogg, USMC (Ret)
Franklin L. Nemes
Richard P. Ovenden, (Dick)
Col Charles W. Putnam
LtGen Louis B. Robertshaw, USMC (Ret)
Henry C. Schulte
Capt Robert J. Shirk, USMC (Ret)
John S. Sproatt
Col Wifie W. Taylor, USMC (Ret)
GySgt Larry L. Wisnoski, USMC (Ret)
Jimmy L. Youngblood

Continued from page 1

cluded such sports as football, basketball, softball, dodgeball, boxing and soccer.

This year, summer campers were able to use five newly installed COPE course activities, in addition to the other COPE course activities, which proved to be both challenging and exciting.

One of the favorite COPE course activities was the Zip Line. It not only allowed the campers to overcome their fear of heights, but it also gave them an exhilarating ride of their life.

Special competitive activities were also held, such as boxing matches between platoons, pugil stick competitions, a field meet and the Iron Man competition. An eight-mile hike to Camp Perry, a nearby Boy Scout retreat, gave the campers a chance to canoe, swim, learn how to shoot a bow and arrow and tour a static display of Marine Corps equipment.

All of the training and sports activities culminated in the final test - the Crucible - which consisted of two grueling hikes, flanked by a four-hour series of physically and mentally-demanding challenges, which all campers successfully completed.

The Crucible started at 4:15 and ended at the Iwo Jima Monument at midnight. Except for a short snack period, the campers were on the go at all times. The Crucible was the mastery test for the completion of the summer program.

With temperatures soaring to near 100 degrees every afternoon, just completing the four-week camp was a real test, but apparently all were up to the challenge. Over 115 have already signed up to return to the Academy for the fall semester.

As in recent years, boys who complete the summer camp program and enroll at

the Academy in the fall do not have to participate in plebe training at the beginning of the school year. However, changes have been made to bring the summer camp training more in line with what is received by new cadets.

The summer camp ended July 26 with a parade in front of the Iwo Jima Monument. Certificates of completion were handed out by each drill instructor in front of their company barracks.

Austin Nelson, a second-year summer camper and incoming cadet, summed up his feelings about summer camp saying, "This summer camp is the best summer camp. Even though I had my ups and downs, I still hung in there. The Drill Instructor cared a lot about us and the staff was very nice to the summer campers." He added, "I would recommend this camp to my friends because it teaches leadership skills and builds self confidence! I can't wait for the school year!"