CompuChild Chatter

June 2009

CompuChild® Technology Education

Summer is nearly here—can you believe it's the end of another school year? And summertime means vacations. We've prepared a Summer Vacation *Technology* Checklist to help you before and after you go:

- ☐ Shut down your computer.
- ☐ Turn off your monitor, printer, scanner, fax machine, and other equipment. You can even unplug your router if you have one.
- ☐ Unplug all devices from electrical outlets.—remember that a lot of appliances and chargers continue to draw power even when they're not in use.
- ☐ Don't change the outgoing message on your answering machine, or use a message that says you're out of town, or leave another number where you can be reached. Both alert callers that your house is empty—just call in periodically to check for messages.
- ☐ Disable or turn down the ringers on your phones so that unanswered rings can't be heard outside.
- ☐ Don't forget to bring your cell phone charger and laptop power cord with you.
- ☐ Don't set up an auto-responder message for your email that tells people you're out of town. Many people can check their email via webmail from wherever they go so you don't have to miss the important stuff.
- ☐ If you'll be gone for an extended time, remove the ink cartridges from your printer and store them upright in a sealed plastic bag to reduce the chance of drying out.

When you get home after an extended absence, run the cleaning utilities for your inkjet printer. And don't forget your non-tech items, such as having someone take in your mail and water the plants, and using a timer for your lights.

Please call 401.935.1802 or email me (robin@compuchild-ri.com) any time. Visit online at **www.compuchild-ri.com**.

Classes for School-Agers

Keep your child engaged and learning in a fun class this summer!

6-week units for school-ager students are currently enrolling for the summer.

Mondays at the VFW, Post 4487, Middletown, RI (just behind the Coddington Brewery Restaurant) - class schedule information can be found on our website.

*Seats are limited, so **sign up now**!*

This month, your Kindergarten students will be wrapping up their PowerPoint slide shows on bugs, and then wrapping up their Memory books that they've made this school year. We'll print out the books before the school year ends so that they can bring them home to share. The finished files will be posted on your school page on our website so that you can download them. Don't worry if you don't have Microsoft® PowerPoint—you can still play them, and a guide will be posted with the presentation for parents.

Younger students have been learning so many things! My youngest friends may not be reading yet, but they are learning their letters, and that helps us start using menus and commands. In addition, we've worked on learning our keyboards, using the Start Menu, learning about the Cancel button, and more. With their growing literacy skills, they'll be ready to start using MS Word in the fall.

I am so proud of all of them! They really are all stars!!!

Where can we go today? Check these out!

In the current economy, we all want our kids to develop grounded skills with money. Here are a couple of places you might want to go:

- Check out the Hubble online: http://www.nasa.gov/
- Parents can get some ideas here for summer: http://www.kaboose.com/
- Great age-appropriate fun with info to parents: http://www.surfkidzui.com