



How I spent My Summer Vacation

By Shelley Lawrence
8/20/2014

Come read about how I spent my summer vacation and how you can make the most of the remainder of the summer

It is hard to believe that summer vacation is almost over. Of course, I have been back at work for about two weeks, and I am busy gearing up for a new school year. In addition to reading and relaxing this summer, I had the privilege of attending Harvard's Leadership: An Evolving Vision. I spent a week in July at Harvard with school leaders from all over the world. We learned from the most renowned educators about how to lead effective change and be strategic thinkers. I was also part of a group sponsored by the Avi Chai Foundation that paid for this experience. Our Avi Chai group met every evening to explore ways to apply our new learning in the Jewish Day School environment. The days were long (Harvard ended at 5:30 PM and the Avi Chai portion ended at 9:30 PM). It was exhausting and invigorating at the same time. I returned to Los Angeles with tons of ideas of how to make Sinai Akiba an even better school. One day of this institute was spent outside of Boston at a team building retreat. We had the opportunity to experience both low and high ropes activities. You can see from the pictures that I pushed myself out of my comfort zone and tried the high ropes activities. This was a huge risk since I am afraid of heights!

As the last days of summer fade away, I invite you to reflect back at your summer activities. Ask yourself:

1. 1. Has my child been reading?
2. 2. Have I read to my child?
3. 3. Has my child played with school friends?
4. 4. Have we visited a museum?
5. 5. Have we practiced math facts?

If you have not engaged in these activities with your child, it is now time to start! I can't wait to see everyone on September 2nd!