



June 4, 2007

*Parental Wisdom – Emails
What high school graduates
need most*

"I have found the best way to give advice to your children is to find out what they want and advise them to do it."

- Harry S. Truman 33rd President

As parents we celebrate a series of 'firsts'

First smile

First word

First day of school

And in the blink of an eye, we celebrate 'lasts'

Last spring concert

Last ball game

Last day of school

It's a rite of passage for all of us.

We have grown up with the families of our children's classmates for 13 years and have shared many memorable events. At graduation, one last time we'll sit together with our cameras positioned as happy tears stream down our faces. We'll look at these accomplished young people, but remember them as little children with missing teeth, which then turned to braces, and have now become beautiful, confident smiles.

We have nothing but hope for their future, and are blessed with the memories they've given us. It's funny when raising the children the hours go so slowly but the years fly by.

As your children chart off to college, write them a letter reminding them of your own family's life compass. It will be something they can refer to since you won't be close by to pick up their socks or their spirits. This way if they go off course, they can find their way back again.

Be grateful to the people who had a positive influence on your children including their teachers, friends, family and others that treated them with respect and expected the same in return. Finally, be proud of the person you raised, and optimistic about the world they will create.

A wonderful gift that I'll be buying for the high school graduates in our life is the new book by one of our advisors, Dr. Rob Gilbert of Montclair State University (NJ) entitled *How To Have Fun Without Failing Out: 430 Tips from a College Professor*, which was just awarded the Good Parenting seal.