

## *From the Desk of Maribel Z. Diaz....*

One of my most cherished memories is the summer I was 10. I came home on the last day of school, excited that the daily routine of “schooling” was through for three months and eager to fill my days with the luxury of nothingness. I don’t know exactly what put it in my head that reading the *Tesoro de la Juventud* (a 20-volume set filled with articles, fables, history, and wonderful ideas) was the thing to do, but at dinner I announced to my family that I would not want to be disturbed for the next few weeks because I was going to read the *Tesoro*. The next day I started with A and 9 weeks later I finished with Z, adhering to the deal that I take a bath each day and show up at the dinner table ready for conversation. My aunt constantly questioned my mother about the wisdom of letting me spend hours every day with my nose in the *Tesoro*, but my mother seemed to know that I was in my own way finding respite in those pages and re-energizing myself for the next school year.

The long, languid days of summer lend themselves to slowing down and reflecting on recent events, examining goals, and building dreams. That’s what I did that summer. As I was reading, I made connections to what I’d learned, weighed the options for the coming school year, and dreamed of the innumerable possibilities the world had for me. That summer I reflected through my reading. Nowadays, I often find the ocean with the lull of the waves, the smell of salt, the warmth of the sun, gives me that opportunity to let the worries and stresses of the regular year float away and allows my mind to clear so the answers can come.

As I walk the halls of CEA this summer, I delight in the ways our students are finding to reflect. Some do it through their commitment to a passion, some through a discovery in music or the nonsense of games or the echoes of laughter with friends or just the time we give them to find and understand who they are. The avenue for reflection may be different, but its process is the same and the need for it is vital to each of us as human beings.

I hope you take the time this summer to reflect, to rejuvenate your spirit, to refocus your goals, and to build your dreams.

Wishing you a peaceful, safe, and joyous summer.....