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Wealthy Families Secret To Groom Brilliant Students

By Ida Byrd-Hill

Let's face it!!! Our children are judged based on their grade point average and their performance on

standardized test such as ACT/ SAT. Our children's high school and college admissions are based on those credentials. As parents, we invest money in sophisticated desktop/ laptop computers to give them access to the worldwide web. We establish home offices, libraries and structured areas to encourage daily homework and studying. We believe constant studying and attention to homework will groom our children to brilliant status and give them impeccable credentials. To a certain extent, we are correct. Homework and study skills lay the basic foundation for school success as high grade point averages flow from high test scores.

Memory skills and repetition is the key to high grade point averages; however, they are not the key to brilliance on standardized test. Standardized test, such as California Achievement Test (CAT), Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), American College Test (ACT), assumes students are exposed to different cultures, climates, countries and experiences at least 10 times before reaching 10th grade. Students who perform the best on standardized test have exposure to diverse experiences. What better way to gain this exposure than a vacation to another city, state, country or continent!!!!

Wealthy families have always known that trips, getaways and vacations are the secret to grooming brilliant students. Family vacations are an opportunity for students to apply all their classroom knowledge quickly. The average vacation is three to seven days. Some wealthy families are known to vacation up to 45 days on multiple continents. Nevertheless, most families are on a limited timeframe requiring them to make quick decisions regarding currency exchange, climate differences, navigation of city, etc.

These decisions while extremely practical require the use of mathematics, science, geography, social studies and reading. Unconsciously, students are immersed into lessons fueled by sheer excitement and curiosity.

Imagine how productive the lesson would become if a family vacation evolves around a classroom lesson. Children learn lessons at a faster pace. For example, a train trip to an Indian Reservation in Arizona/ New Mexico really solidifies a lesson on Native American History.

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I know you are thinking "I don't have the money for vacation as travel is too expensive." Under normal circumstances and full prices, travel can be extremely expensive. However, prices drop substantially September 7 through November 20 as this time period is considered the travel slow season. Other lesser known slow seasons are December 1 through December 20, January 3 through February 1 and 2 weeks after Passover/Easter through May 20.

Combine slow season discounts with internet discounts, a family can experience the world at the fraction of cost of your holiday (Christmas, Hanukah, and Ramadan) gift fund. "I spent \$1500 dollars for a 3 day vacation in Nassau, Bahamas. That cost included air travel to Miami for 3 people and a cruise to Bahamas. Since food was include, the trip was relatively inexpensive," states Ida Byrd–Hill, a parent of 7th grade twins, Kevin and Karen Hill who attend Duke Ellington Conservatory of Music and Art (a Detroit Public School). "My children learned about world colonization, but better yet they learned about opportunities as they met the Bahamian Governess, a woman of African descent. I am glad I was able

to find that trip on the web. as Karen scored 96 percentile on the Social Studies portion of the California Achievement Test and Kevin scored 87 percentile on the Science portion of the California Achievement Test " states Byrd–Hill.

Great deals can be found on the internet by booking at least 14 days or even 21 days in advance. There are also websites that specialize in last minute travel. Often these trips (air/ hotel combos) are for a weekend departing the same week you book the vacation or the next weekend. Since there are so many travel websites on the internet it pays to spend some time price comparing. There are websites, that allow individuals to surf many of the top websites and not so well known sites to compare vacation pricing.

If you want to groom your children into brilliant students, improve their grades and performance on standardized test, implement the secret wealthy families have known for generations - Take a Family Vacation.

Good Trip!!! Bon Voyage!!! Viaje Bueno!!! Arrivaderci!!! Viaggio Buono!!! Gut Tschus!!!

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President of The Harvard Group Wealth Management L.L.C. for 10 years. She has served as guest columnist for the Michigan Front Page for 2 years and a speaker for the Better Investing television show hosted by David Chilton, author of The Wealthy Barber.

The Freedom of Wealth—or What Wealth Means to Me

By Mary Wilkey

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No, money cannot buy happiness—that's true. But what is also true is that it sure does make life a whole lot easier to deal with.

The freedom of wealth means being:

*Free of any need for pretense (if we are who we claim to be, we need not pretend). I am who I am.

*Free of the burden to carry cash, checks, or credit cards (our person is recognized and respected as having means—we are free from the burden of having to prove it.) I have what I have.

*Free to go anywhere or do anything lawful. I stand where I stand.

*Free from worry about provision. I have what I claim and claim what I have.

*Free from the limitations of this world. I go where I go. I know what I know. I rest where I rest.

Everything is mine, because I remember all His benefits. I am who I am in Him.

To enjoy wealth, one has to be aware of it. (If we have millions in our account, but if we don't realize it because we are insane, we cannot enjoy it.)

It occurs to me that each of us fortunate enough to be in our right mind is independently wealthy. We have only to realize that wealth. Here I refer to that which transcends monetary wealth.

It is all in our mind. We have but to "go within" to discover it. We've all heard it said that, if any self-made millionaire were to lose everything, he'd gain it all back very shortly, because he knows the secret.

This is true. The power to get wealth comes from within!

Here I'm going to share with you several books which have made a lasting impression on me, all of which I've read several times,

and all of which I probably will read again and again. They each

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contain a wealth of information on the "secret" to tapping into this inner power:

The Secret of the Ages—by Robert Collier
Think and Grow Rich—by Napoleon Hill
Power Through Constructive Thinking—by Emmet Fox
The Magic of Believing—by Claude Bristol

Of course, many more treasures could be added to this list, because the "secret" is not really a secret at all. It is freely available to any sincere seeker.

So, next time you're feeling "po," remember that you're really wealthy beyond your wildest imagination—and erase that "po" mindset once and for all!

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