

e-Thoughts — *It's time to commence*

June 2015 Newsletter



Our e-Thoughts feature provides close-up views on topics and areas of interest from everyday life.

I'm invited to four graduations this month: one preschool, one kindergarten, one high school and one college. A lot of pleasure — and a lot of gifts!

Graduations mark the completion of something — a grade, a course of study or a degree. And yet they're called "commencements." So they're endings as well as beginnings. That's interesting, isn't it?

Endings and beginnings can both be difficult. But somehow the fact that graduation is a combo ending/beginning makes it seem like it "should be" easier. It almost sounds seamless: You just finish and "slide" right into a new beginning, right?

Of course not. Surely, preschool graduates do slide right into kindergarten, as kindergarten graduates slide into first grade.

But those who finish high school and college have more complicated transitions. Will they continue their studies? Do they go to work? Do they start saving for the future? Do they move out, move on or move back in?

I have a lot of respect for people who are facing endings and beginnings. They both call for you to do a lot of thinking. They may involve major life changes. They're joyous, melancholy, proud moments.

Congratulations to all the graduates and families of graduates who are reading this. And good luck with your endings and beginnings!