

## September 1, 2002

September! Now that word has its own poignant magic. It is now redolent not only of cool weather, turning leaves and ripening apples, but also of memories of agony and fiery death. Life is mirrored in nature, and in turn, mirrors nature.

In the last days of summer, I was shooting baskets in the swimming pool where a youngster laughingly took on the task of tossing the ball back to me. I asked his name, "John!" John soon volunteered that he had started the second grade that day! "Wow!" "Yes," he said proudly. "And I learned all about planning. You know, long range goals and short range goals. Like getting a job..."

My tears were added to the pool that day: the second grade!

As I watch with avid interest the US Open I celebrate this coming together of nations around the tennis court. I get lots of vicarious exercise as my own muscles celebrate with theirs. What a great game!

As I watch these world-class athletes, I wonder about muscle memory and how it is used in learning to play piano, as well as to play tennis. How else can we use that kinesthetic or muscle aspect of the three elements: ideas, feelings, actions in our teaching so as to stimulate learning?

I know that my own hubris is to expect the reinforcement towards learning not to be what it is - 1142 times! but 142 times! I expect we all need to be reminded:

Put in the time...!