

"The vast possibilities of our great future will become realities only if we make ourselves responsible for that future."

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Grey Matters

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With a weekend like this last one you could almost believe winter wasn't breathing down our necks. Well, almost. One of my missions this weekend was to distract a friend and keep him out of his house until 6PM for his surprise 40th birthday party. I took him golfing after our kids played soccer. Picture, if you will, me trying to convince him we can play one more hole when you can barely see your own hands in front of your face. He thought I was deranged when I said, "Come on man, just tell me if it *sounds* straight. We'll find the ball!" Four lost balls later we headed home. After getting "lost" a couple times, we made it and he was thoroughly surprised.

Halloween at RJG was a complete success. I loved all the amazing costumes. In my travels, I saw Underdog, the complete faculty of Hogwarts School, not to mention a very disturbing biker-lady with black lips, pierced nose, and a serious attitude problem. And that was just the staff!!!! While I always look forward to Halloween at school with some dread, fearful that some problem will occur, last Friday was basically incident free and everyone, except for the biker-lady, was very well behaved and had a good time.

With the closing of the first term, many students will be staying after school for new intramurals. Added to the students already in the building after school for clubs and academic support, there are a lot of kids around. To make matters even more interesting, there are other students who are hanging around until a 4PM or 5PM activity starts.

Clearly there is nothing inherently wrong with students hanging around the lobby after school and to some extent it adds to the vitality and excitement of the building. The issue, however, is supervision, or lack thereof. Teachers are responsible for those students who come for extra help as are the club advisors for their club members. Once the activity or events are over, we do not provide any formal supervision. If a teacher or administrator happens to overhear a disturbance or passes by and observes a problem, there is no doubt that the adult would intervene.

Due primarily to the maturity of our students and a bit of luck, there have been no significant problems. With that said, it is important for parents to know that when their children say they are staying after school, they are on their own after the clubs end and/or before a late afternoon activity begins.

I want to be clear that there have been no significant problems and I enjoy the fact that the students feel comfortable hanging out in the building after hours. I do, however, feel it is important for parents to have a full understanding of the situation.