

*You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You are able to say to yourself, 'I have lived through this horror. I can take the next thing that comes along.' You must do the thing you think you cannot do.*

**Eleanor Roosevelt**

# Grey Matters

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Not wanting to look foolish and “unmanly”, I chose not to wear a winter coat to my daughter Emma’s soccer game on Saturday and instead wore a sweatshirt. WRONG! Before the game even started I was pulling old oil stained shirts out of my trunk trying to get warm. I ended up looking like a missed matched marshmallow. Needless to say, most of the fathers were similarly whereas the mothers were happily snug in their parkas. Luckily, there were other highlights to the weekend, such as raking leaves in the yard with my girls and putting on the final touches in the guest bathroom, way ahead of the Thanksgiving deadline.

Congratulations to all the teachers in the World Language Department for El Día de los Muertos celebration last week. It was wonderful to see the students caught up in the spirit of the day and their pleasure and pride in their participation in the process. The theme of the day, that being the recognition of loved ones lost, could be seen through the displayed student work, the music, the dancing, and the of course amazing food. Students clearly walked away from the lesson with a better understanding of another component of our world’s culture.

Congratulations also to one of our newest clubs, the RJG Speech Team, for a fantastic performance in their first tournament of the year. Katie Ames, the club advisor reports, We placed incredibly well against very tough opposition. Congratulations especially to Kate Rodophele for her first place in poetry, Manassa Jayanthi for fourth place in impromptu, Ashwin Suresh for sixth place in impromptu, Amanda Duggan for sixth place in poetry, and Molly Picardi for an honorable mention in poetry. Great job everyone!

Today marks the beginning of the second term at RJ Grey and students are scheduled to receive their first report cards the week of November 17. While our teachers have done a wonderful job providing students and families with formal and informal feedback throughout the year, this will be their first “official” documentation of the year.

For some students, the report cards will reflect the ease with which they have made the transition to the junior high. These students have made the adjustments necessary to succeed at the junior high and are performing as expected. To these students I say congratulations but recommend that they not rest on their laurels. It is a great way to start the year but it is imperative to keep up the high caliber of work.

For others, the information provided in the report cards may instead show that this transition is still in process. This is not inherently a bad thing or reason to be discouraged. The report card is only one tool for assessment and ultimately can be a great compass for carving a path for

improvement. Now is a great time for students to reach out to their teachers and counselors to build in the supports necessary to assure a successful year.

Enjoy your day off tomorrow and have a great week.