

*"It is amazing how quickly the kids learn to drive a car, yet are unable to understand the lawnmower, snow-blower, or vacuum cleaner."*

**Ben Bergor**

# Grey Matters

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After all those times that the weather broadcasters were off the mark, it seems like they knew what they were talking about this time. We got about 20+ inches overall in Framingham. It's blizzards like these that make me glad I bought a snow blower a few years ago.

Luckily the snow came late enough for us to hold our 8<sup>th</sup> grade dance. The ticket sales were light, about 185 sold, but it proved to be a very nice evening and the kids had a good time. As wonderful as it is to see the gym full of happy dancing kids, the smaller crowd gave it a more intimate feel. Thanks to Lilly Greene, Susan Heartlein, Kathy Marsh, Caroline O'Brien, Lauren O'Neil, Dave Peterson, Denise Roadman, Allen Warner and parents Kate Duffy and Janice Schlegel for chaperoning.

Parents, please let us know us if you are going to pick up your child early from a dance. Students are required to have a parental note in hand if they are leaving early. While we have consistently announced this policy before each dance, the number of kids without notes suggests we as a school need to do a better job communicating this expectation to parents. Accordingly, I am mentioning it here. If you are going to pick up your child before the end of the dance, please send in a note so we are all on the same page.

Last Thursday was the first \_ of our Fall parent conferences. Hopefully everyone was able to meet with the teachers they wished. There is no doubt that when the home and school work together as a team, we are in the best position to provide an optimal supportive learning environment where all children can succeed. The remaining Fall conferences are this Thursday, December 11.

This Tuesday night, from 6PM – 7PM is my monthly drop in hour. I have had a number of great conversations with parents during this time and encourage anyone with a question, comment, or feedback to come on by.

Thanks again to all the students, staff, and parents who filled out the NELMS questionnaire, either on-line or in paper form. The data will be collated this week and will send it off to the NELMS visiting team at the end of this week. Our own building-based committee will also begin to evaluate the data from the parent, student, and staff questionnaires to identify any patterns that we find. If you are interested in joining this committee, we are still looking for one parent from Acton and one from Boxborough. I will keep everyone updated as this evaluation process continues.