

"Curiosity is the very basis of education and if you tell me that curiosity killed the cat, I say only the cat died nobly."

Arnold Edinborough

Grey Matters

Volume 1

December 15 - 19, 2003

Number 16

What a great weekend for football. First, Bill Maver led the Colonials to an overtime Super Bowl victory Saturday night, completing their 3rd undefeated season. Following their lead, the Pats were triumphant in their latest snow bowl. Top that off with another beautiful snowy evening and I think we can officially mark this in the record books as a pretty good weekend.

In any survey process, it is my understanding that a 5 – 10% rate of return is considered successful. I am thrilled to tell you that over 300, or 32%, of the RJG parents participated in the NELMS evaluation process by submitting a survey. This is outstanding and, once again, reflects the great participation and commitment of our parents. Over the next few weeks, we will begin to delve into the data looking for general patterns. As these trends come to light, I will report back to you.

While the vast majority of the parent and staff surveys were completed on-line (thanks to Steve Hall's amazing computer program), all 933 student surveys were completed on paper. I want to thank the following parents for taking these responses and entering them into our computer based survey system: Betsy Sullivan, Dawn Gomez, Pam Nourse, Julie Liu, Shri Parikh, Lucy Li, Radhika Vuppala, Christi Baker, Karen Voelman, Diane Yasgur, Calla Baxter, Julie Soberg, Jennifer Cote, Lan Gassert, and Linda Subsick. Their time and effort dramatically helped in this process and is greatly appreciated!

For many of us, kids, parents, and staff alike, the reality of winter kicking in and the impending holiday season can lead to a predictably high level of stress. This can manifest itself in a variety of ways ranging from withdrawing within ourselves to acting out. Please remember that there are many sources of support available. If you or someone you know is becoming overwhelmed, please let us know. Our counseling staff is available to help directly and/or to provide referrals to local agencies for support.

We have 7 days to go before the break. Let's work together to make 2003 at RJG end on a high note.