

"It is understanding that gives us an ability to have peace. When we understand the other fellow's viewpoint, and he understands ours, then we can sit down and work out our differences."

Harry S. Truman

Grey Matters

Volume 1

February 2 – 6, 2004

Number 22

Part of this weekend was spent debating with a 10 year old (an interesting event in itself) about overnight camps and trying to explain that just because a camp has a great website does not mean it is a good choice. Luckily, with some good references, we found some options that we all could agree on. Hey, did you do the "SuperBowl Thing"? We always hang out with a group of good friends and watch the game and laugh at the commercials while all the kids are in another room watching movies and raising havoc. A great nail biting victory for the Pats!

Although the report cards were scheduled to go home today, we are still working out a few glitches with our new Student Data Management system. It is our intent to distribute report cards Tuesday, Wednesday at the latest. Sorry for the delay.

As some of you may know, a group of parents have asked for more information about what topics are included in the grade 7 Social Studies curriculum, how much variation there is among the five teams when teaching some of the more sensitive subjects, and how parents are informed about the curriculum so they can better support their children. In an effort to address these questions and clarify the curriculum, Assistant Superintendent Jonathan Landman, Building Department Leader Lynne Bover, and I will speak to these concerns at three venues in the next two weeks.

This Wednesday, February 4th, at 7:00PM in the RJG Library, we will show two movies that are shown to our 7th graders. These movies are titled: "A Place At The Table" and "That's a Family". One is about 35 minutes and the other movie is 40 minutes. The plan is to give a brief (5minutes or so) introduction, show the films, and then Jonathan Landman, Lynne Bover, and I will be available for questions.

The following week, on Tuesday, February 10th, there are two regularly scheduled meetings which will include some discussion of the 7th grade Social Studies curriculum as part of the planned agenda:

Tues, Feb 10 (Noon - 1:30)

Acton Memorial Library – **PTSO Monthly Forum**

Dr. Jonathan Landman is presenting general curriculum in grades 7-12, and other items he is working on. Updates from the HS and JH Principals will also be given, as usual.

Tues, Feb 10 (7:00 - 8:30 pm)

R.J. Grey JHS Library – **JH School Council Monthly Meeting**

The following items will be on the agenda:

1. Discussion of the 7th grade Social Studies curriculum.

2. Parking/drop off procedures - report from the subcommittee
3. Funding for extracurricular activities - report from the subcommittee
4. Reviewing/revising the Student Handbook - report from the subcommittee

*For more information, call School Council Co-Chair Celeste Margolius at (978)263-6560.
School Council meetings are always open to the public.*

Project Wellness is just around the corner – March 10. For those of you who are new to RJG, as I am, Project Wellness came out of a discussion regarding the Youth Risk Surveys created by Emerson Hospital and completed by AB students (you can find a copy of this survey on our website at the following link: http://ab.mec.edu/parents/Youth_Risk_Behavior_Survey.pdf)
The frequency of risky behavior by our students was quite concerning. At the same time, we know that one of the best ways to help children make good choices is to increase communication between children and parent/guardians. Project Wellness, created on this belief, is a daylong conference and series of workshops for both parents and students designed to help or keep open the lines of communication and to educate about issues unique to this population such as Internet safety, preventing risky behaviors, new age of independence, etc. On the heels of two very successful years, we hope that this year's conference will be even better than ever.

By now you should have received the packet describing the details of this year's program. It is our sincere hope that every RJG grade 7 student attends with a parent or adult and takes full advantage of this opportunity. If you have a questions or concerns, please contact Assistant Principal Margi Tessier at (978) 264-4700.