

"The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn."

Alvin Toffler

Grey Matters

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Thanks to everyone who offered my family suggestions regarding overnight camps for our daughter. It is amazing how many good camps there are. It also suggests that with a little help from friends, you can't go wrong. When we looked at all of them, it became clear that as important as the quality and quantity of the camps activities are, going with a friend is even more important. Given a number of factors, it looks like the YMCA camp Frank A Day is the winner for this year. Hopefully, this camp will come through for us!

To begin the process of clearing up some confusion, misunderstandings, and erroneous information regarding the grade 7 Social Studies program, Assistant Superintendent Jonathan Landman, Building Department Leader Lynne Bover, and I met with about 30 parents last Tuesday evening to watch two movies, [A Place At The Table](#) and [That's a Family](#), which are shown to 7th graders early in the year. A very useful and valuable dialog followed the movie.

The process of clarifying the curriculum will continue this week. As I reported in last week's *Grey Matters*, the 7th grade Social Studies curriculum will be discussed briefly at this Tuesday's PTSO monthly forum. Additionally, a more in-depth discussion at the R.J. Grey monthly School Council Meeting, where the curriculum for the first Social Studies unit will be presented.

In order to provide R.J. Grey Families with a greater understanding of this material prior to the meeting, the curriculum documents have been posted on our website: [Voices of America: Course Overview & Unit I Plan](http://ab.mec.edu/rjweb/voicesofamerica.pdf) (<http://ab.mec.edu/rjweb/voicesofamerica.pdf>). If you are planning to attend the presentation, we would encourage you to look over the curriculum materials in advance of the meeting. The materials contain a lot of information; reading through them in advance may help all present to focus the discussion.

Last Thursday marked our second round of parent conferences. Once again, they worked out quite well. The incredible scheduling could not have occurred without the amazing assistance of the following parents: Sheila Alsen, Donna Bottari, Laura Brock, Debbie Fecher, Judy Gaughan, Liz Horber, Beth Petr, Debbie Namias, Karen Noriega, and Kate Trainor. A special thank you goes to our own Marcia Charter for taking all the individual work and compiling it into one cohesive, building-wide schedule.

All staff who work in the R.J. Grey Junior High building have been assigned a parking space in one of our lots. Their cars can be identified by green staff tags. For parents, guardians, and other visitors who come to the junior high during the school day, there are

five visitor spaces in the circle by the flag pole for short term use (an hour or less). Other visitors can park in the lower lot in spaces numbered 232 to 252. These spaces start at the tennis court end of the lot and are located in the second row parallel to Charter Road. In the spring, permanent signs will be installed to clearly indicate areas for visitors and staff.

If none of the spaces listed above are available, feel free to park where you can in the lower lot. Depending on events in our building (i.e. World Language Week) and at the Parker Damon building, there will be some days when it will be difficult to find a parking space. Thank you for your patience as we work to accommodate everyone who needs parking for activities in our building.

Next Thursday is Blue and Gold Day at RJG. All students and staff are encouraged to come to school wearing our school colors for our school-wide "School Spirit Day". I am told that this is an event to behold. I can't wait!

I don't know about you but I have always found that I need the February break more than the break in April. Perhaps it's because the winter break is loaded with holiday stress or that the "cabin fever" builds up during January and February. Regardless of the causation, I am looking forward to taking a little down time next week. I hope you too take this opportunity to relax and enjoy. See you after the break!