

"Nothing separates the generations more than music. By the time a child is eight or nine, he has developed a passion for his own music that is even stronger than his passions for procrastination and weird clothes."

Bill Cosby

Grey Matters

Volume 1

February 23 – 27, 2004

Number 24

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a chance to relax and rejuvenate over the break. My family and I used the time to head south and relax and play in the sun. As frightening as it may appear, we are rested and ready to jump back into the reality of school again!

I would once again like to thank the grade 7 Social Studies teachers, Assistant Superintendent Jonathan Landman, and all the RJG families for working together to clarify the grade 7 Social Studies Curriculum and to address parental concerns. Through an exciting chain of events, the members of the RJG community demonstrated for our children how adults can constructively address areas of concern. As one parent said, it was "a great civics lesson for everyone involved."

A few parents have asked me, "What next?" As you will note from my article in the February edition of *Shades of Grey*, I believe that the department clarified a number of misunderstandings and provided a clear rationale for the entire curriculum. Accordingly, there are no plans to make any major changes to the Social Studies curriculum. With that said, the department is:

- 1) Continuing to review the curriculum.
- 2) Removing some specific assignments.
- 3) Posting the curriculum on our web site.
- 4) Preparing a binder containing assignments used regularly each year which will be made available.
- 5) Scheduling another showing of the films, *That's a Family* and *A Place at the Table* later this year as well as each year during the summer.
- 6) Developing a means to increase communication early in the year with parents regarding the topics that will be addressed in this curriculum.

This coming Saturday night, February 28th, (7PM – 10PM) will be our first RJG Night Life. Sponsored by the Acton Boxborough Regional School District, the Acton Boxborough Community Education and under the supervision of Linda Mathinos (Acton Boxborough Community Education), RJG students will be able to play foosball, ping pong, air hockey, board games, watch movies, and/or just hang out with their friends in the Jr. High. Tickets will go on sale this week in the café during lunch periods for \$5. So please act promptly to ensure your child's participation. The evening is limited to 200 RJG students.

Have a great week.