

"Life is a series of collisions with the future; it is not the sum of what we have been, but what we yearn to be."

Jose' Ortega y Gasset

# Grey Matters

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Now that the Sox and the Cubs are out of the picture, normal sleep patterns have returned to the Hardimon household. Between being schlepped to play dates, soccer, and karate, Emma (my 7 yr. old) helped me prep the walls and paint the bathroom while Maya (10 yr. old) helped with the molding. So far – knock on wood – I am way ahead of the goal of completion by Thanksgiving. The plumbing for the sink, however, may suck up a bit more time than expected. We shall see...

A story in the October 6<sup>th</sup> edition of *Education Week* (vol. 26. #6 October 6, 2003) caught my eye. In her article titled, *Homework Not In Rise, Research Shows*, Debra Viandero points out that nationally, students in America are spending less time on homework than they did 20 years ago. For example, in 1981 82% of students in the survey reported studying while in 1997, only 62% reported they were studying. "By 1999, only a third of the 13- and 17-year olds in that study reported doing an hour or more of homework."(pg. 16) Surprisingly, the group that showed a significant increase was with students aged 6 – 8. "Among those children, time spend on homework more than doubled, rising from 52 minutes a week to two hours and 8 minutes."(pg. 16)

Now you may be asking yourself, "Where is Hardimon going with this?" and I have to admit that I have no specific agenda or point. I know that the quantity of homework is always an issue and this article jumped out at me and said, "READ ME!" You can find the article at:

<http://www.edweek.org/ew/ewstory.cfm?slug=06Homework.h23>

There is clearly a perception that RJG students are doing a lot of homework. Some feel they do too much while others believe they don't do enough. At this point it is hard for me to really judge. What I do know is that our students are incredibly successful yet they still walk around with a smile. Regardless of the national statistics, RJG students are expected to do an average of about 90 minutes of homework a night. If your child is doing more that 90 minutes on a regular basis, it might be worth touching base with your child's teachers to see if you child is putting in too much time. Perhaps their time may be better spent staying after school for some extra help. Working together with your child's teachers is the best way to be sure your child is working to his/her potential and receiving all the support he/she may need.

Over the last couple weeks, I have had multiple *Grey Matters* bounce back from cyberspace. After talking with our Tech folks, I have been assured that the source of the problem is outside RJG. It appears that many of the internet providers used by parents are utilizing security systems to cut down on spam. This can be a good thing. For example, some providers block mail that is sent to multiple addresses from a single source. While this is great when "freakypeople.com" try to send you greetings, it is somewhat problematic when it stops messages from the school. If you are getting this newsletter intermittently or know of someone that is, I think these security

procedures are the culprit. Unfortunately, I do not have a clear solution at this time. You may be able to contact your provider and see what can be done on their end. In the mean time, if you do not get a Grey Matters by mid-week, you should be able to find the latest edition on our web page: [http://ab.mec.edu/rjweb/fr\\_greymatters.html](http://ab.mec.edu/rjweb/fr_greymatters.html)