

*“I awoke this morning with devout thanksgiving for my friends, the old and the new.”*

**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

# Grey Matters

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This Saturday, I brought my daughter Emma to her last fall season soccer game. Being the modern parent that I am, I never scream, “Come on, knock that kid down and steal the ball!” I would, however, be lying if I said that such thoughts don’t cross my mind from time to time. As these “unsportsmanlike-like” words struggled to be voiced this week, I realized that the opponents, for whom I mentally held ill will, were none other than a U9 team from Acton-Boxborough. Yikes! Talk about a conflict of interests. Although AB put another check in the win column, our Framingham team showed some good skills so everyone walked away happy.

Last Friday afternoon the Student Council held another successful grade seven dance.

With almost 200 students in attendance, everyone had a great time. Thanks to staff members Kellie Carter, Jon Duclos, Becky Hadden, Hye Kyung Dragone, Alfredo Hernandez, Annalyse Roach, Marc Lewis, Jim Goodemote, Jen Moss, Judy McKendry, Jean Goulet, Liza Huber, and Mary Fran Doiron for chaperoning. Additional thanks go to parents Jan Couch, Susan Chormann and Bonnie Maserang for their assistance. I would also like to thank all the parents for promptly picking of the students after the dance. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

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Parents and guardians, be on the look out for Report cards. They will be handed out no later than Tuesday afternoon and brought home by the students. In addition to perusing the grades, please let us know if there are any errors in the demographic data (i.e. spelling of names, correct address, etc.). Questions regarding grades should be directed to the specific teacher and demographic corrections should be directed to my office.

On a different note, I’d like to remind parents and guardians to please drive carefully when you are dropping off your child. While everyone understands the difficulty of getting through the congested school campus and to work on time, there has been a frightening increase in the number of “near misses” involving students and other cars. I ask that everyone please remember to be patient and drive safely. Additionally, I need to remind parents and guardians that student drop off should only occur in the lower parking lot off Charter Rd. Students should not exit cars by the Blanchard doors or the staff parking lot on the west side of the building.

In Last week's issue of *Grey Matters*, I mentioned that a number of parents had asked me about the possibility of creating a late bus route for students who stayed after school for clubs and/or extra help. I said that I would look into the possibility of providing a late bus for RJG students. I have since learned that the last time a late bus was investigated, it was determined that a late bus was not a viable program based on the following issues:

- 1) This would have to be a parent/guardian pay-for-service program as there are no funds available in the budget.
  - 2) Buses would not be available for a late run until at least 4:30 (and 3:15 on Thursdays).
  - 3) Depending on the number of buses funded, the ride home for some students could take well over an hour.
  - 4) Families would need to purchase bus passes in advance to assure the funding for the bus routes.
  - 5) As there would be an increase in the number of students waiting for the late bus, additional funding would be needed to pay for staff supervision.
  - 6) If the high school chose to participate, the time for the routes would likely increase.
- All of these issues are still accurate today. The question that remains is, are there now families willing to fund and participate in such a program today?

While there are multiple scenarios, let's look at the cost of a late bus for one term. Below is a chart which shows, under one scenario, the cost of families purchasing a late bus pass for one nine week school term. Depending on the number of participating students, the cost of a single late bus pass could range from \$65 to \$324 per term.

<b>cost</b>	<b>days run</b>	<b>cost per term</b>	<b>Number of Participating Students</b>				
			<b>10</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>50</b>
\$90	4 per week	\$3,240	\$324	\$162	\$108	\$81	\$65

Our next step will be to run a survey to determine the number of families interested in participating in such a program. When we have accurate data on participants, we can provide more accurate costs.

This Wednesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, Students will have a special schedule which will include an all school assembly with student speeches and presentations by 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Chorus and Band. It is a wonderful time for the school to come together as a whole to celebrate the spirit of Thanksgiving. Please note that Wednesday will be a half day with dismissal at 11:06AM.

Lastly, I'd like to wish everyone in the RJG community a warm and a happy Thanksgiving. I hope everyone has a chance to relax and enjoy this holiday.