

*“Loose, footloose, Kick off your Sunday shoes
Please, Louise, Pull me offa my knees
Jack, get back, C'mon before we crack
Lose your blues , Everybody cut footloose”*

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Grey Matters

Volume 2

May 16 – 20, 2005

Number 33

The next and final round of this year’s MCAS testing takes place this week. Grade 7 students will take the English/Language Arts Language and Literature sections, the Mathematics Tryouts, and the History and Social Studies Tryout tests. Grade 8 students will take the Mathematics Tryouts and the Science and Technology/Engineering sections. Please note that the “tryout” tests do not count and scores are not reported. Once again, be assured that our students are well prepared and have worked all year towards this goal.

This Tuesday evening, 7:30-9:00PM, is our Spring Band Concert. It is a fantastic event and a wonderful opportunity to hear the 7th and 8th grade bands perform. You don’t want to miss it!

While it is a few weeks away, I want to ask for parental/guardian assistance regarding the 8th grade Graduation Dance on June 17. Please remind your child that this is not a formal event, nor is it even a “semi-formal.” We ask you not to indulge in fancy clothes, hairdos, and certainly no limos! We ask the students to avoid wearing jeans; girls are invited to come nicely dressed (no Gowns!) and boys are asked to wear collared shirts. Ties and jackets are not necessary. We encourage students to come without a date. In addition, please be aware that *this dance is for R.J. Grey students only*. Thank you for your cooperation. Tickets are the week of the dance and will not be available at the door.

Speaking of dances, I have had a series of exciting conversation with a group of students who are challenging the validity of our current prohibition against break dancing at our school dances (they made me feel like the local authority figure in the movie *Footloose*). To recognize their efforts to bring about change in an impressively mature way, not to mention ending their need to sneak into the bathroom to break dance on the bathroom floor – a particularly disgusting albeit true event – Dr. Imperato and I sat down with this group of students to articulate our concerns and to brainstorm possible solutions. We discussed their expertise at doing the worm, the flair, the freeze, and the woka-woka-ding-dang (OK, I made that one up) while Dr. Imperato and I shared our concern that in the process of doing these moves they might injure themselves or others. Ultimately we agreed to investigate a series of conditions/policies:

- a) We would look at creating a small and easy to supervise area where groups of students could safely break dance and others could safely watch.
- b) Two chaperones would have to be present in the break dance area.
- c) All observing students would have to stay seated

- d) To avoid arguments about the names of the safe moves – they seem to change by the minute – no flips or head moves of any kind would be allowed.
- e) Lastly, we agreed that parents/guardian needed to hear about this change and have a chance to speak to their concerns. **So, parents/guardians, please let me know if you share their enthusiasm for break dancing in a safe setting or if you feel that it is an unwise situation no matter how structured.**

Have any parents and guardians noticed that the pile of clothing in your child's room is getting smaller. I hate to tell you this but it is probably not because of a dramatic improvement in putting things away. It is more likely that those items, usually laying across their floor, are currently sitting in our lost and found. Please make sure they check and see if their items are still in the school building before it is too late. We will be emptying the lost and found on Friday, May 20th and donating the items to charity.

As many of you may have noticed, dropping off or picking up your child at school can be a little confusing and crazed. There have been quite a few times that cars have blocked buses, and of greater concern, times where students were narrowly missed by cars picking up or dropping off other students.

All of these situations are avoidable if everyone follows the policies of the school. In an effort to ensure everyone's safety, please read and follow the rules listed below:

1. The front entrance loop is for buses only between 7:00AM – 7:45AM. and 1:45PM – 2:30PM. Other vehicles are not to enter the loop during these times.
2. Student drop off and pick-up is allowed at the bottom of the steps in the lower parking lot only. *This lot is located east of the building, behind the tennis courts, just off Charter Road. Please pay particular attention to students entering and/or exiting cars when driving through this area.*
3. Parents are asked to enter and exit the parking lot via Charter Road, not Mass. Avenue (Route 111). *Driving through the campus during bus drop off and pick-up interferes with the buses and causes unnecessary traffic problems.*
4. Students are not to be dropped off in front of the Blanchard gym or in the parking lot on the west side of the building. *Again, doing so interferes with our school buses and causes unnecessary traffic problems.*
5. Parent parking is only allowed in the lower lot and in the visitor spaces off the front loop. *Please note that these visitor spaces are for short term parking only.*
6. Cars are not to be parked – momentarily or otherwise – in the front loop area except in a visitor's space.
7. Lastly, please remember not to pass the busses. *While I am sure you never do, the frequency of this occurring is surprisingly high.*