

"Civility costs nothing and buys everything."
Lady Mary Wortley Montagu

Grey Matters

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Congratulations to Bill Maver and the Colonials for their glorious record breaking victory over Concord-Carlisle last Friday night. My family and I watched from the stands and were surrounded by screaming and bouncing high school students. The energy and excitement was awesome. What surprised my wife, Michaela, and me more than the game itself, however, was the politeness of the kids. From the large screaming and cheering young man, painted belt to scalp in blue and gold paint, to the young woman on a cell phone trying to find her friend in the crowd, the students were all amazingly courteous to those around them – fellow students and adults alike. While it goes without saying that AB should be proud of the Colonials, the innate level of civility in the general student body is commendable as well.

By the way, while I was looking at the staging area for the TV trucks last Friday, I was surprised to find that not all our students take the time to lock their bicycles. This is an unwise choice that could lead to very expensive ramifications. Parents, please remind your child to lock his/her bike when he/she rides to school.

Last Thursday night was RJG's Back to School Night and it was a roaring success. Parents and family members stopped me that night as well as the next day to share how much they enjoyed the night. Comments included: "My son loves this school"; "I am so impressed with what you are doing here"; "The teachers are so energetic!"; "They already know my kid"; "This is a fantastic place. Keep up the good work." Thanks again to the staff of RJG for all of their energy, enthusiasm, and love for kids. Their efforts are what make RJG such a successful place for students to learn and grow.

Congratulations to Celeste Margolius and Jim O'Neil for their election to the RJG School Council. Thanks to all the candidates and everyone who participated in the election process. I look forward to working with Celeste and Jim over the next two years to help RJG maintain the current level of excellence and, at the same time, make it an even better educational environment for all of our students.

Last week was a difficult one for my email list. Sorry about that. It seems that FirstClass, our email software, recently increased its spam blocking approach by limiting the size of the mailing lists. As a result, the parent/families email list I have used successfully since September of 2003 stopped working. As we tried to solve the problem, some folks received multiple copies of test emails while others received nothing at all. Luckily, thanks to TRC coordinator Steve Hall, we now have a new email list format which I hope will eliminate this and all the other glitches we have run into this year. Keep your fingers crossed.

October 15th marks the beginning of the holy fasting month of Ramadan. During this month, many Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset. Parents: Please let us know if you and your family are celebrating Ramadan so that we can make any accommodations necessary to support your child. Teachers should keep this in mind when planning activities that may involve food or drinks. This information is especially key for PE teachers who should provide alternative activities for fasting students.

It's time to start thinking about this year's musical! The team is in place and we are planning another extravaganza. We're doing *Seussical, the Musical*. *Seussical* is a wonderful show that brings to life some of Dr. Seuss's most wonderful characters. With all genres of music and a big and diverse cast, this show will be a blast! We'd like to invite all interested parents to join us for an informational session on Thursday, Oct. 14, at 7:30 in the auditorium. You'll have a chance to meet some of the production team, hear about our plans for the show and ask any questions you might have. Auditions are coming up in mid November so now's the time to hear all about what promises to be a great show for all involved! There will also be a meeting for all interested students on Friday, Oct. 15, right after school. The meeting will run from 2:30-3:15.

Have a wonderful week.