

*"If there is no struggle, there is no progress."*

**Frederick Douglass**

# Grey Matters

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The first few days of school were exciting and fun. On their first day of school, 7<sup>th</sup> graders had the building to themselves. With a gleam of excitement in their eyes, they strolled around the school enjoying finding their way around their new home. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders, on the other hand, entered the building as the old pros, knowing the facilities and the customs of the school. Their greatest challenge was getting to know their new teachers and, more importantly, sharing their summer stories with their friends. Together, this year's 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders clearly make a great community and I look forward to a wonderful year.

Last week we started using our new automated attendance system. The goal of this new procedure is to increase the communication between home and school regarding student attendance. As we work through the learning curve of this system, it is inevitable that erroneous calls are made. We ask your patience and cooperation. Please remember to call our attendance line (978) 264-4700 ex. 3333 if your child will be absent or tardy. We are also looking for parent volunteers to help with this process. One person per day needs to be at the Junior High office at 7:40 AM for about 20 minutes to record the absentee calls from the message system. Once recorded, the form is given to the office staff. They will take it from there! Anyone familiar with "Safe Arrival" systems will find it a breeze! Training will be provided. Please contact Sue Hart at [92786hartfam@mindspring.com](mailto:92786hartfam@mindspring.com) to volunteer or ask questions! By the way, the magnets with the attendance line phone number are in and should be coming home this week. Be on the look out.

This coming Tuesday night, September 14<sup>th</sup>, I will hold my first "Drop-in Hour" from 6 – 7PM for parents who might want to stop by the office and ask questions about the school or share their thoughts. I had a number of great conversations with parents last year during this time and I look forward to continuing the dialog.

Bee Busters Inc. worked on the building this weekend and with any luck, RJG will be Bee/Wasp free for the remainder of the fall. I'd like to thank the students, staff, and especially Ms. Blagdon and Ms. Hadden for their patience and flexibility as we dealt with the pesky little flying critters. Everyone's cooperation made planning around this disruption dramatically easier than it could have been.

Have a great week!