

“To avoid situations in which you might make mistakes may be the biggest mistake of all.”
Peter McWilliams

Grey Matters

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Last Friday, at approximately 2:45PM, a black car containing four teenagers drove through the RJG campus. As they drove by the Blanchard Auditorium, a passenger in the car pulled out what we believe was an Air-Soft gun and shot three to four plastic pellets at a group of RJG students. While one student was hit, no serious injury was sustained. The Acton Police were immediately contacted, a report was filed, and the investigation is ongoing. While this is indeed disturbing and we are taking it quite seriously, we also believe that this is an isolated incident.

As many of you may have noticed, there is now a large red line painted six feet off the curb on the driveway of the school (near the tennis courts) as well as a series of red lines in the lower parking lot. In an effort to update our safety procedures, we now have the students “muster” in the lower parking lot during evacuations, such as a fire drill. These lines assist us in guiding the students safely to the lower lot and to identify the specific gathering sites for each team. Please note that these red lines are not lane markers. While this may seem obvious to most, the lines have confused a few drivers who thought it was a center line. With a couple of recent near misses, I thought it was important to mention.

Another transportation issue to highlight is our buses. While we try to accommodate extra students on the buses for rides to friend’s houses, music lessons, etc., some buses are more crowded than others. In fact, we will no longer be able to approve bus passes for extra riders on any of the Boxborough buses as they have reached their maximum capacity. Parents and guardians who want their child to ride on a Boxborough bus to which he or she is not assigned will need to arrange for alternate transportation. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

In my last two issues of Grey Matters, I highlighted many of the great things about Project Wellness. As a school and as a community we are proud of the quality of this program, and families have given us positive feedback regarding continuing this event. That being said, I wanted to note that the planning committee carefully considers all the feedback we receive from students and parents, both positive and negative. We appreciate this feedback and thoughtfully consider all suggestions and ideas as we plan from year to year. For example, over the last four years, we have gone from an opening speaker and two workshop format to eliminating the opening day speaker and having a three workshop format. Additionally, we have added or eliminated workshops based on the feedback and suggestions we have received. As one example, for Project Wellness 2006, we will be adding more “boy” focused programs in response to comments that male students felt that there were more workshops for girls at last year’s event. It is these kinds of changes that we hope improves the experience for our student body as a whole.

While we believe that holding Project Wellness "off site" from the RJ Grey is important, there has been feedback that traveling to Merrimack College during the month of March can be unpredictable in terms of the weather. Unfortunately, due to the size of our group, and the need for multiple workshop spaces, our options are limited. Local colleges, including Merrimack, can only consider accommodating RJ Grey students during their winter break when college students are away. Overall, Merrimack has been rated positively by attendees and will be the designated facility for March, 2006.

We are excited about Project Wellness 2006 and hope that you too! Please remember to mark March 15th on your calendars.

This Tuesday night, from 6PM to 7PM is my next drop-in hour. If you have any questions or comments about our school, or simply want to discuss Sunday night's episode of West Wing, feel free to swing by.

As a reminder, there is no school on Friday, November 11 for Veteran's Day.