

“Before you criticize someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you criticize them, you are a mile away from them, and you have their shoes. “

Frieda Norris

Grey Matters

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On Friday, we held our second 8th grade dance of the year. Although there was not as much dancing and more chatting and laughing, the 180+ students in attendance had a great time. Thanks go to chaperones Mike Balulescu, Liza Huber, Susan Probolus, and Allen Warner as well as to parents Kristen Durand, Clare Harlow, Mark Giglio, and Bonnie Masserang for all of their time and assistance. I also want to thank all the parents and guardians who picked up their children so quickly after the dance. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

With the Thanksgiving break soon upon us, I want to remind all parents and guardians to let the office know if your child will be out of school for one or multiple days. Knowing about such absences ahead of time allows us to better prepare in both the classroom and the front office.

This Wednesday, we will be following a special schedule. After following a truncated schedule, students will attend an all school Thanksgiving Assembly which will include student speeches and performances by the school Chorus and Band. It is a wonderful time for students and faculty to pause and reflect on the blessings we have as a school and as part of the Acton-Boxborough community as a whole.

Following this assembly, students will be dismissed at 11:06AM for the Thanksgiving break.

If you have been a parent/guardian volunteer in the past or may do so in the future, it is very important that you read the following information regarding changes to the CORI procedures.

Under the original CORI (Criminal Offender Record Information) statute, we are required to renew CORI checks on all volunteers every three years. We will reach the three year point next spring! In addition, there have been recent amendments which mandate us to gather more information and to confirm identification with a picture I.D. Because of these changes, we have determined that the most effective process will be to do a new CORI certification for all volunteers. We will begin this process after January 1, 2006.

Please keep the following points in mind:

- If you are currently an approved CORI volunteer you will be able to volunteer through June 30, 2006
- We will request new CORI forms be completed in the winter/spring for the period July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2009.

- We will only request one form be completed for all schools in Acton Public/Acton-Boxborough Regional Schools.
- We will work hard to make this be the least cumbersome process possible by having multiple opportunities to complete the form in accordance with the law.

If you have any questions, please contact Deputy Superintendent of Schools George Frost at 978-264-4700 x 3209.

Enjoy your Thanksgiving break!