

*“There are two ways of exerting one's strength:
one is pushing down, the other is pulling up.”*

Booker T. Washington

Grey Matters

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During our first fire drill of the year, I was very impressed with the behavior of our RJG students and the leadership of our staff. Everyone moved calmly throughout the building, making every effort to follow all fire drill procedures and adapting to the inevitable glitches. The students are to be commended for taking the exercise seriously. They followed directions, and remained appropriately quiet. While we all hope that students and staff never need to leave the building in an emergency, it is comforting to know that the RJG community is ready.

Many of you are aware of the RJGJHS School Council, led by the school principal. Members include elected parents/guardians, teachers, community members, and student representatives. Meetings are held monthly throughout the school year to discuss relevant concerns and issues, as well as to develop a school improvement plan. For the upcoming year, we need two parents or guardians of 7th graders to participate on the School Council.

Interested candidates should submit a brief biographical paragraph by noon on Friday, September 9th for the ballot. Write-ups should be sent to PTSO Co-Chair Jan Couch at jccouch@comcast.net or to me at chardimon@mail.ab.mec.edu. Paper copies may also be mailed to RPTSO, P.O. Box 912, Acton, MA 01720, but please confirm with a phone call to Jan at 978- 263-2118. Voting will be done at back-to-School Night on September 29th.

At the present time, the Student Council is in the process of organizing a pajama drive to help families affected by Hurricane Katrina. Students will receive information this week regarding the pajama drive, which is being sponsored nationally by a not-for-profit organization called Pajama Program. This is a tangible way for the R. J. Grey community to contribute to the hurricane relief effort, and the Student Council looks forward to your support.

The Student Council and PTSO have also teamed up to raise money for R. J. Grey through Box Tops for Education, a program offered to schools by General Mills. It's a simple way to raise needed funds for our school: clip the Box Tops coupons off of participating products and send them to school with your child to place in the collection box in the R. J. Grey front lobby. Each Box Top is worth 10¢, and General Mills will send R. J. Grey a check for each coupon redeemed. Members of the Student Council and PTSO will be at Open House to collect Box Tops and provide information about the

program. You can also obtain information on Box Tops for Education, including a list of participating products at <http://www.boxtops4education.com>.

Please note that the RJG Directory will have a new look this year. In addition to student names, addresses and phone numbers, teams and parent names will be included as well. If you have not filled out a directory form, please go to either the RJG or PTSO website for a new copy, and send in the completed form ASAP. You may also use the form to opt out of the directory. The PTSO and the RJG administrative team hope these changes will improve the directory and make it more useful to students and parents as well. If you have any questions or comments please contact Patti Babcock, 978-264-3274, ppbabcock@comcast.net.

Finally, this coming Tuesday night, September 13th, I will hold my first “Drop-in Hour” from 6 –7PM for parents who might want to stop by the office, ask questions about the school, and/or share ideas. In past years, I have had a number of great conversations with parents during this time and I look forward to continuing our dialogue. Please join me.