

“The gem cannot be polished without friction, nor man perfected without trials.”

Chinese Proverb

Grey Matters

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Last Friday, September 16th, was Pajama day and it was a blast. Many students and staff members came to school in a montage of flannel and fluffy slippers. It was a sight to behold! More importantly, the RJG community once again demonstrated its marvelous generosity by donating many sets of pajamas to the survivors of Hurricane Katrina.

Recognition of one's birthday can be meaningful. While some students often receive this acknowledgment in school from their friends, there is no current mechanism to wish a Happy Birthday to all of our students at this time. At this time, I have an idea regarding birthday recognition and am seeking your feedback.

Last spring, the Student Council bought the school an electronic message board which was installed in the cafeteria. Currently, we are using this message board to repeat the daily announcements about upcoming activities and events. It would be relatively simple to list students' birthday which fall on or close to a specific date. Many middle level schools (junior highs and middle schools) post a "today's birthdays" list at the front entrance and I have seen the glee in student's eyes when they come in and see their name. Parents, guardians, staff; what do you think? Please email me your thoughts regarding this idea.

Due to a scheduling conflict, the first 8th grade dance, originally scheduled for this Friday, has been re-scheduled for Friday, September 30th, from 6:30PM – 8:30PM. Tickets will go on sale in homeroom on Monday, September 26th.

Many teams are already planning their first field trips and chaperones are needed. Parents and guardians, if you are interested in volunteering now, or at any other time of the year, please complete and send in your (CORI) forms right away.

The School System is required by law to have a cleared "criminal offender record information" (CORI) form on file for all volunteers who might have direct and unmonitored contact with children when no other CORI cleared employee is present. It takes about two weeks for a form to be processed. Forms can be found in the school offices, and should be turned back in to the offices.

Acton Boxborough Regional Schools PTSO website <http://abrptso.ab.mec.edu/getinvolved.htm#cori>

Please be aware that schools (even within the same system) are not allowed to share the results of a CORI. Accordingly, parents new to RJG must fill out a new form. If you have any questions regarding your CORI status, please call or email Marcia Charter in our office at (978) 264-4700, Ext. 3303.

A number of parents have asked me if there is a method to prepay for school lunch. The answer is yes. Parents interested in this program should send a check with their child in even increments of \$2.00 for a lunch. Please be aware that these funds can only be used for a \$2.00 lunch. Students will not be able to prepay for snacks or any other al-a-carte items which will require cash. Checks should be written to the *Acton Boxborough Regional School Lunch Program* and brought to Kitchen Manager Elaine Livermore in the Food Services office (across from the kitchen entrance) between 7:15AM-7:30AM.

R.J. Grey is looking for volunteers who would like to help out with our Mathcounts club. An R.J. Grey parent runs the club but would benefit from other adults attending the weekly meetings (no preparation would be necessary). Mathcounts is a nationwide organization focused on encouraging math knowledge and education in the middle school years. The organization provides support materials used in a weekly after-school activity. These meetings take place one afternoon per week from 2:15 – 3:30. Students work together as they solve math puzzles and problems in the areas of statistics, discrete math, geometry and algebra. Although no homework is assigned, enthusiastic students often work on the challenges at home, too. In January, our students compete to determine who will be part of the team which represents RJ Grey at a Mathcounts Chapter competition to be held in February. The top individuals and school teams from that meet will be eligible to compete in the State competition in March. Last year we had approximately 25 students who regularly attended the weekly sessions. You can find out more about Mathcounts at their website: mathcounts.org. If you are interested in helping out with this program at R.J. Grey, contact Joyce Kelly at: jkelly@mail.ab.mec.edu.