

*"If you haven't found something strange during the day, it hasn't been much of a day."*

**John A. Wheeler**

# Grey Matters

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Our first 8th grade dance of the year was wonderful. As 7th graders last year, the students looked somewhat tentative and self-conscious. This year, the class of 2010 came in confident, comfortable, and ready to have fun. I'd like to thank our chaperones Mike Balulescu, Gabrielle Berbarian, Jon Duclos, Pat Garrison, Lilly Greene, Pat Higgins, Audra Kaplan, Tim Nolan, Dave Palmer, Jennifer Vacca., and Vicki Weeks who made the evening a success. Additional thanks go to parents Bonnie Maserang, Libby Reichlen, Patty Sullivan, and Elizabeth Valente for their hard work and ongoing support of this important social event.

Some of you may recall that to date, break dancing has not been allowed at our school dances to date. Last year, a small group of students advocated for break dancing as an option and several meetings were held with me last spring to address adult concerns with the possibility of allowing students to dance. With agreements made, the much anticipated "approved break dancing exhibition" took place in the small gym during this year's first 8th grade dance. Much to my surprise, after the kids rushed in to watch the dancing, our hard core break dancers developed performance anxiety and just stood there looking at each other. However, once the crowds went back to the main room, the break dancers got their "groove thing" going and spun to their hearts content.

On a more concerning note, I'd like to bring your attention to a website that seems to be gaining popularity at the high school level. It is called MySpace.com and it is a site for people to chat, blog, post pictures, and exchange emails. Apparently, teens and tweens have used this website to exchange inappropriate material. Below is a review of MySpace.com from a family friendly media review organization, CommonSenseMedia.org.

*Parents need to know that there is a lot of vulgar language and discussion of adult topics at this site... While this site is extremely popular with tweens and teens, having over 18 million users, parents...should preview the content while the kids aren't around. You probably won't be able to keep your older teen off it but at least you can warn her about the dangers. That said, not all uses of the site are shady. For example, many kids use it as a convenient spot to distribute their digital photos and blog content solely to close friends.*

While I have heard that a few students at ABRHS are frequenting this site, I do not have any specific information about RJG students using it. With that said, what is popular in any high school is frequently passed down to younger students. I am bringing this website to your attention, not to frighten you, but to raise our awareness of the need to monitor what our children

are viewing on the web as well as to remind ourselves to have those important conversations with our young adults about making wise and healthy decisions.

Finally, I was pleased to see so many of you at Back to School Night last week and I hope you found the evening informative. As always, I would like to extend my appreciation for the staff whose ongoing commitment to our students and parents is what makes our school such an outstanding learning community.

A reminder that there is no school on Tuesday, October 4th in honor of Rosh Hashanah. Have a good week.