

“Shared laughter creates a bond of friendships. When people laugh together, they cease to be young and old, teacher and pupils, worker and boss. They become a single group of human beings.”

W. Lee Grant

Grey Matters

Volume 4

November 13 – 17, 2006

Number 10

I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday weekend. On Friday evening, my family and I attended the AB High School performance of Holes. Not only was the performance outstanding, it was wonderful to see former RJG students pursuing their love for the theatre both on stage and on the various crews.

November 9th marked the end of the first marking term at RJ Grey and students are scheduled to receive their report cards the week of November 20th. While our teachers have done a wonderful job providing students and families with feedback since the start of the year, this will be the first “official” document of the year.

For some, report cards will reflect the ease with which students have made the transition to the junior high. These students have made the adjustments necessary to succeed at the junior high level and are performing as expected. To these students I say “Congratulations!” This is a great way to start the year but essential to keep up the high caliber of work.

For others, the information provided in the report cards may indicate that a transition is still in process and that there is room for personal growth. This is not inherently a bad thing or reason to be discouraged. The report card is only one tool for assessing progress and performance and ultimately can be a great compass for carving a path for improvement. Now is a great time for students to reach out to their teachers and counselors to build in the supports necessary to ensure a successful year.

In the last issue of *Shades of Grey*, I highlighted many of the great things about Project Wellness. Our school and community 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 information and thoughtfully consider all suggestions and ideas as we plan from year to year. For example, over the last five 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 suggestions we have received. For Project Wellness 2006, we added more “boy” focused programs in response to comments that male students felt that there were more

workshops for girls at previous events. 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, some parents have commented 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, 2007. We are excited about Project Wellness 2007 and hope that you too! Please remember to mark March 14th 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 why NBC's *Studio 60 On The Sunset Strip* is better than ABC's *Brothers and Sisters*, feel free to swing by.

Finally, the second 8th grade dance is this Friday, November 17th, from 6:30 – 8:30PM. Tickets will be on sale all week in homeroom for \$4 and will not be sold at the door. The theme for this dance, as voted by the 8th grade students, is "Tropical." Students are encouraged to wear clothes that fit the theme, like Hawaiian shirts and hula skirts. Please remember that clothing must be school appropriate and bathing suits are not allowed.

Have a good week.

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<http://ab.mec.edu/rjweb/index.html>