

“No great deed, private or public, had ever been undertaken in a bliss of certainty.”

Leon Wieseltier

Grey Matters

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I hope everyone had a restful and relaxing Thanksgiving holiday. It is always wonderful to have an opportunity to reflect on our blessings and spend time with loved ones.

Last Wednesday, RJG held its annual Thanksgiving Assembly. It was our first opportunity this year to bring the entire school together in one place, to showcase the talents of our students, and to share in the spirit of Thanksgiving. Under the direction of Mr. Mark Hickey, the 7th and 8th grade bands played a great rendition of *Diamond Joe's Riviera Club*, *March of the Paratrooper*, *Louie, Louie*, as well as the perennial *Hey* song. In addition, Mr. Specian led the 7th and 8th grade chorus through a wonderful performance of *Corner of the Sky* and *Al Shlosha D'Varim*. The highlight of the event was a speech by 7th grader Pauline Zheng on the spirit of Thanksgiving. The maturity, intellect, and school spirit of RJG students continues to impress me. It was an outstanding day.

The involvement of our student body can also be seen in activities that reach out to help others. Whether it's the students' participation in The Adopt-A-Grandparent club, the Coat Drive, or the entire school's participation in food collection for the Acton Food Pantry, the students of RJG take pride in their commitment to be involved citizens.

Following these same ideals, the club, Project Tamaa, was founded this year. Under the leadership of Social Studies teacher Kellie Carter, a group of students gather weekly to identify ways to help those in need in Africa. From the Aids epidemic to genocide, poverty to hunger, these students have made it their mission to help others.

This Friday, December 1st, Project Tamaa members will be showing the video *Forrest Gump* as a fundraiser to support *World Vision*, a non-profit organization that helps orphans in Africa. Prior to the movie, they will also be airing a segment from 60 Minutes on the situation in Darfur. Parents and guardians should be aware that this 60 Minutes episode addresses many of the atrocities that have occurred in Darfur and will have images that may be upsetting. A more detailed description can be found at the following website:

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2006/10/20/60minutes/main2111909.shtml?CMP=ILC-SearchStories>

Tickets for the Project Tamaa fundraiser will be on sale in homeroom beginning Tuesday and can be purchased for \$2.00. Signed permission slips are required as *Forrest Gump* is a PG-13 rated movie.

With Thanksgiving behind us, we have a solid month of relatively uninterrupted time before the winter holiday. The second term has begun, and we are prepared for a lot of teaching and learning to happen before the next vacation break. Let's get going!