

"They say that time changes everything, but you actually have to change them yourself."
Andy Warhol

Grey Matters

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Happy New Year! I hope everyone was able to use the break to relax and rejuvenate. My father flew in from Chicago to spend the holiday with my family, and we had a wonderful time. All that was missing was some real snow!

This Thursday, January 5, school will be dismissed at 10:40AM for the third and final parent/guardian and teacher conference session. I hope you have found these conversations helpful in supporting your child.

At the December 12th School Council meeting, the pros and cons of publishing the names of honor roll students in the local newspaper was a topic for discussion. For some, this is viewed as a traditional and appropriate way to publicly acknowledge a student's academic success. For others, the publication of the honor roll unnecessarily emphasizes competition and accentuates the academic pressures which place undo stress on our children.

Whether it was simply a coincidence or a sign of the times, the following day, the Principal of Needham High School began receiving a lot of local press for eliminating the publication of their honor roll names in an effort to decrease student stress. By the end of that week, some of you may have heard the comments made by Jay Leno and Rush Limbaugh during their weekly monologues.

Putting aside their specific reactions, the fact that this issue caught the attention of national TV and radio suggests the honor roll issue is a hot topic. Should you be interested in reading the related Globe article, it is available on-line at the following address:

(http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2006/12/17/honor_roll_story_makes_media_splash/).

So, RJG parents, what do you think? Currently, we publish the honor roll list in the local newspaper and post student lists within the RJG building as well. Should we continue to do this? Should we move to posting the lists only within the building? Our honor roll students work very hard for their grades and deserve recognition. That being said, we have many other RJG students working very hard, achieving personal goals, and we want to recognize them as well. Do you have suggestions on how we should recognize all of our students for their individual accomplishments? Please let me know your thoughts on this important issue as I am very interested in your feedback.

Have a wonderful week.

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