

“When you build bridges, you can keep crossing them.”

Rick Pitino

Grey Matters

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Early January in New England and the weather was warm enough to play golf in shorts. Add a Patriots playoff win and you've got the recipe for a great weekend. I hope everyone was able to get outside.

Last week, I asked parents/guardians to voice their opinions regarding our tradition of publishing the RJG honor roll in the local newspapers. Given the 60+ responses I received, this topic clearly rang a chord for many.

Of those who replied, 78% were in favor of continuing to publish the honor roll in the local newspaper while 23% were opposed to the publication. While this data is based on a small opinion sample, it does suggest that the parents and guardians of Acton-Boxborough continue to support this tradition and that there is no need to make a change. We will, however, continue to look at ways in which more of our student population can be recognized for their accomplishments. I'd like to thank all the members of the RJG family who responded to my question regarding the publication of the honor roll.

The survey process has historically been a proactive way of gathering feedback at the RJG and we have appreciated your response on a wide range of topics. Since we continue to be committed to providing the most successful school experience, a task force made up of classroom teachers, special educators, counselors, and administrators has created a parent/guardian survey to inquire about your experiences at RJG to date. A hard copy of the survey will be mailed home next week. For those who prefer to complete the survey on-line, an electronic version of the survey will be available on our website as well.

Please note that you have also received a letter recently outlining a similar process for our students. As noted in my recent letter, the Social Integrity Survey will be shared with our students this Friday, January 12.

Parents/guardians, we need your assistance. Over the last few weeks, there has been a notable increase in students being dropped off in the front circle between 7:00 – 7:20AM. As you can imagine, this is causing significant problems for the buses as well as creating a dangerous situation for the children. If you are driving your child to school, please use the designated drop-off area in the lower parking lot. Doing so will increase student safety and assist our transportation program as well.

As you are marking your calendars for the month of January, there are a number of events to call to your attention. This Tuesday, January 9, from 6:00 – 7:00PM is my next

drop-in hour. On Wednesday, January 10, from 7:00-8:00PM, RJG is holding its 4th Annual Spelling Bee. The Spring Choral concert is scheduled for January 16 from 7:30-8:30PM. The first of four parent/guardian forums, focused on adolescent development is scheduled for January 22, from 7:00 – 8:30PM (forum descriptions included below). Last but not least, our Winter Band concert will take place on January 23 from 7:30-8:30PM.

As a reminder to 7 grade parents, Project Wellness registration forms are due this Friday.

Finally, please remember that there will be no school next Monday, January 15, in honor of Martin Luther King Day.

Have a great week.

Adolescent Development – January 22, 2007 (7:00PM – 8:30PM)

Along the path to maturity, students are exploring new relationships, making new choices, and developing their self-image. RJG strives to provide an environment that helps our students acquire strong academic skills, knowledge and personal values to help them succeed as adults. Come talk about the ways teachers and parents can work together to keep students feeling good about themselves as they grow and learn.

Haggling About Homework? – February 12, 2007 (7:00PM – 8:30PM)

Studying and meeting deadlines is always a part of school. Parents often ask, “What’s the best way for me to help my child with homework?” Students often ask for help and advice on how to organize their homework time, how to balance homework with their other activities and what to do if they find themselves stuck on a homework assignment. A toolbox of study skill and time management ideas will be shared by experienced RJG teachers that will help your child sail through school.

School Discipline –March 26, 2007 (7:00PM – 8:30PM)

Providing each student with guided experiences which promote cooperation and mutual respect is embedded into daily life at RJG. Supporting students in their quest for independence isn’t always smooth. Hear about the approaches used at RJG to help students make good decisions and develop citizenship skills.

Stress Management – April 23, 2007 (7:00PM – 8:30PM)

Managing multiple responsibilities and daily stressors can be hard on students. Staying on top of academic requirements, participating in extra-curricular clubs and activities, while maintaining friendships are all part of a young adolescent’s day. Informative communication is vital to an environment that supports our students in making good choices related to school, and problem solving various situations that arise. Strategies for helping our students meet their own stress management and wellness needs with the support of their families will be the focus for this discussion.

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