

*"The next time you catch yourself saying, 'Hey, that gives me an idea,'
follow through on it."*

Don Ward

Grey Matters

Volume 4

February 26 – March 2, 2007

Number 23

Welcome back. I hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable winter break. I spent the weekend at the National Association of Secondary School Principals' conference (NASSP) and attended a number of interesting sessions on topics ranging from programs on bullying and teasing to the skills our children will need to succeed in the 21st century. The keynote speaker, Thomas Freedman (author of [The World is Flat](#)), gave a fascinating talk about the effects of our blossoming global economy and its implications for our nation's educational programs. All of this information should prove useful as we continue to look at ways to enhance our students' educational experiences.

RJG's production of *Annie Warbucks* opens this Friday evening, March 2. While tickets are going fast, a few seats remain available for each performance. I foresee that this will be an outstanding show that you will not want to miss

Since March will soon be here, please mark your calendars for the first round of MCAS scheduled for March 19, 20, and 21. We have also appreciated the return of your registration forms for Project Wellness coming up on March 14.

With winter still upon us, it seems a little premature to talk about the 8th Grade Graduation Dance, scheduled for June 15th. That being said, many of our young adults are already planning for this special evening so I am sharing some important information. Please remember that this dance is not a formal event nor is it even a "semi-formal." We ask you not to indulge in fancy clothes, hairdos, and certainly no limos! At the same time, to give this event a special feel, we ask the students to avoid wearing jeans; girls are invited to come nicely dressed (no gowns!) and boys are asked to wear collared shirts. Ties and jackets are not necessary. We also encourage students to come without a date. As always, *this dance is for R.J. Grey students only*, and we appreciate your cooperation.

The students of RJG are some of the most thoughtful, respectful, and well behaved students that I have ever met. With that said, they are normal 12 and 13 year old students and occasionally make unwise decisions. In an effort to prevent a potential problem, I want to raise parental/guardian awareness of an issue that while rare, has occurred in the past. Specifically, I am referring to student betting in school. As one would suspect, this is a violation of our school rules and could lead to disciplinary actions. With the college basketball finals just around the corner, this might be a good time for parents and

guardians to have a conversation about this issue with your children and remind them that such activities are not permitted in school.

Finally, I wanted to mention that our first two Parent Forums have been extremely well attended. Topics to date, Adolescent Development (presented by counselor Caroline O'Brien and school psychologist Dr. Carolyn Imperato) and Homework Strategies (presented by teachers Melanie Scalice and Phil Stameris), have provided worthwhile information and promoted thoughtful discussion. Copies of these presentations can be found on the RJG website. Our next forum is scheduled for March 26th (7:00PM – 8:30PM) and will address school discipline:

*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.*

Have a wonderful week!