

*“We are obliged to respect, defend and maintain the common bonds of union and fellowship that exist among all members of the human race.”*

**Cicero**

# Grey Matters

Volume 4

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Number 3

I hope everyone received our reminder postcard to join us this Thursday night, 9-28-06, for the RJG Back To School Night!

At 6:15PM, Mark Hickey and Bob Specian will meet with parent of Band and Chorus students to review the Performing Arts program at RJG.

At 6:30PM, I will be meeting with both 7th and 8th grade parents in the Blanchard Gym to talk about the philosophy of our school, general communication practices, and the developmental, academic and social needs of our students. I hope this presentation will provide you with some important information regarding how the RJG is designed to meet the needs of young adolescents and how we can work together and support one another during this important time.

From 7 – 9PM, parents and guardians are invited to meet their child’s teachers and learn about the programs and plans for the year. Following their child’s schedule, parents will go to each class for a brief presentation by the teacher regarding classroom practices and the curriculum being covered for the year. During this evening, teachers are not available to answer specific questions about individual children. Should you have questions and/or comments, please schedule a separate time when both you and the teacher can meet to address them. They will be happy to do this.

Last Thursday, we held our first fire drill of the year. I was very impressed with the behavior of our RJG students and the leadership of our staff. Everyone moved calmly throughout the building, making every effort to follow all fire drill procedures and adapting to the inevitable glitches. The students are to be commended for taking the exercise seriously. They followed directions, and remained appropriately quiet. While we all hope that students and staff never need to leave the building in an emergency, it is comforting to know that the RJG community is ready.

While it would be wonderful if all of our students remained healthy all year and never missed a day of school, this is not realistic. We recognize that students will miss a day or two for the various bugs that go around. When this happens, students should see their teachers for missed work. They will be given an appropriate amount of time to get caught up. There are, however, times when students are out of school for more than 3 days. In such cases, we would appreciate you contacting the Main Office (ext. 3303) or

the Counseling Department (ext. 3330) to provide us with more information and to discuss possible ways of supporting your child with missed class work.

A number of parents have asked me if there is a method to prepay for school lunch. The answer is “yes”. Parents interested in this program should send a check with their child in even increments of \$2.00. Please be aware that these funds can only be used for a \$2.00 lunch. Students will not be able to prepay for snacks or any other ala-carte items which will require cash. Checks should be written to the *Acton Boxborough Regional School Lunch Program* and brought to Kitchen Manager Elaine Livermore in the Food Services office (across from the kitchen entrance) between 7:15AM-7:30AM.

The parent perspective is an essential factor in making key decisions at RJG. One of the best way for parents to play an active role in the decision making process of the school is to be a member of our School Council. This year, we are looking for two parents or guardians of 7th graders who are willing to participate on the RJG School Council.~ The council consists of elected parents/guardians, teachers, community members, and student representatives led by the school principal.~ Meetings are held monthly throughout the school year to discuss relevant concerns and issues, as well as to develop a school improvement plan.~

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Voting will be done at Back-to-School Night.~ Write-ups should be sent to PTSO Co-Chair Jan Couch at [jccouch@comcast.net](mailto:jccouch@comcast.net) or Principal Craig Hardimon at [chardimon@mail.ab.mec.edu](mailto:chardimon@mail.ab.mec.edu).~ Paper copies may be mailed to RPTSO, P.O. Box 912, Acton, MA 01720, but please confirm with a phone call to Jan Couch at 978- 263-2118.

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Finally, Sunday, September 24, marked the beginning of the holy fasting month of Ramadan. Ramadan is celebrated during the ninth month of the Islamic lunar year. Parents/guardians, as we are committed to accommodating individual differences in religious observances, please let us know if you and your family need the school to make any accommodations necessary to support your child. Teachers should keep this in mind when planning activities that may involve food or drinks. This information is especially important for PE teachers who should provide alternative activities for fasting students.

Have a good week.