

"It takes a very long time to become young."

Pablo Picasso

Grey Matters

Volume 4

May 7 – May 11, 2007

Number 32

Sometime during the holiday season, my 10-year-old daughter was given a Nintendo Wii as a gift. Being a supportive Dad, I quickly ran out and bought "her" a copy of the Tiger Woods Golf game. After a number of rounds of punching out of the virtual trees, bushes and other annoying things in my way, I began to hit the ball in a relatively straight direction. As silly as it may sound, I do believe that video game has made a notable difference in improving my golf swing. Thanks go to the folks at Nintendo! You may want to give it a try.

Last Friday evening, the 7th grade Tropical dance was another success. Many of our students arrived in a variety of tropical (and appropriate) attire. Apparently, our dance also coincided with National Sundress Day (perhaps an invention of some company such as Old Navy?) so numerous girls were able to expand on the tropical evening theme. Thanks to chaperones Jeanne Goulet, Elizabeth Broadwater, Denise Roadman, Heather Pochatek, Liza Huber, Kerry Byrne and parent helpers Carol Watson, Lori Dyer, Alyssa Jansen, and Elizabeth Carlin.

Last week, parents and guardians of 7th and 8th graders received a letter from the RJG office regarding our new on-line emergency card system. As described, this internal record keeping system was piloted at the Douglas Elementary School and has proved to be a secure, confidential system for internal record keeping. The website uses Secure Socket Layer encryption to safeguard your child's information and is only accessible to authorized schools staff within RJG. More information regarding this security system as well as the emergency card system process can be found by logging into the parent portal and clicking on the "Frequently Asked Questions."

Tuesday night, May 8, is my monthly drop-in hour for the month of May. Please feel free to come by to share any thoughts you may have about how the year has gone, what you'd like to see in the future, or to share a prediction regarding the Red Sox.

You may recall that I recently announced that 8th grade World Language (WL) classes will be on team for the start of the 2007-2008 school year. While this change is dependent on the final state budget, we are excited to plan for a reduction in WL class size. Additionally, teacher participation in interdisciplinary units and activities will be increased, and communication between curricular teachers and between home and school will be enhanced. This has been a goal for the RJ Grey faculty for many years, and we believe that the change will improve the educational experience that is being provided to our students.

This Thursday, May 10, we are holding a parent forum to discuss the potential impact of this new model including the elimination of leveling and the overall effects of expanding our heterogeneous school model currently in place for science, social studies, and English. Building Department Leader, Robin Crown, and Regional Department Leader, Clare Dix, will be available to answer questions and address any concerns parents may have. We hope you will join us for this informative evening.

Have a good week.