

"I have found power in the mysteries of thought."

Euripides

Grey Matters

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Last Friday afternoon we held our first 7th Grade Social. With over 300 tickets sold, it was very well attended, and everyone had a good time. Thanks go to chaperones Judy Clark, Marc Lewis, Becky Hadden, Heidi Porten, Maryfran Doiron, Kristin Yargeau, Lillian Ramos, Jeanne Goulet and Maureen Lin. I'd also like to thank parents, Carolyn Savello and Beth Sloan, for all their time and support.

Tomorrow is Dress Up Day, sponsored by the Student Council. As always, face paint and hats are allowed, masks are not. While this event is a wonderful way for our student to express their creativity, mutual respect is paramount. Costumes that contain inappropriate language, pictures, or symbols will not be allowed. Costumes that try to be funny at the expense of a person or group will also not be allowed. Parents and guardians, please review these expectations with your child before they leave for school.

I am pleased to announce that the RJG website has a new look! I hope that you find it both exciting and user friendly. I want to thank Janice Ward and Priscilla Kotyk for their outstanding work in modernizing our "cyber image". Make sure you visit soon!

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

I also wanted to highlight a special activity hosted by our World Language Department this week. Robin Crown and Lillian Ramos, two of our World Language teachers, have provided me with the following background for the cultural lesson pertaining to El Dia de Los Muertos.

This week, Spanish classes at R.J. Grey Junior High School will be celebrating an Ancient Mexican Festival which is known as El Día de los Muertos (The Day of the Dead). The Day of the Dead is the most important religious observance of the year for Mexicans. In the Mexican tradition there is no greater duty than to commemorate their departed loved ones. "It is a time to remember those whom we have lost. We remember them not in sorrow but in happiness." Preparations for this holiday begins weeks in advance and culminate on November 1 and 2 when families visit cemeteries. They bring flowers, candles, incense, food and drinks to honor those relatives who have passed away. Some give parties that last all night at the gravesites. This is not a morbid occasion, but rather a festive time. To Mexicans death has been traditionally viewed not as an end of existence but as a getaway to other levels of existence.

Parents/guardians: Here is an opportunity to have a great conversation with your child about the celebration described above. Ask your children to explain what they are doing in their Spanish classes and what they have learned. Needless to say, there is a wealth of

educational experiences available to our students which make me proud to be a member of RJG!

Thursday, November 9th marks the end of the first term. Parents, please remind your child to check in with his/her teachers to be sure that all assignments have been submitted while there is still time. Every little bit counts! You should also be on the look out for the report cards, which are scheduled to be brought home by your child the week of November 20th. When you get the report card, please review the demographic information and report any mistakes (i.e. misspellings, incorrect address, etc) to the RJG main office. If there is a question on a grade or a comment, please contact the teacher directly by phone, note or email.

Happy Halloween!