

"We forfeit three-fourths of ourselves in order to be like other people."

Arthur Schopenhauer

Grey Matters

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I hope everyone had a restful and relaxing Thanksgiving holiday. It is always wonderful to have an opportunity to reflect on our blessings and spend time with loved ones.

Last Wednesday, RJG held its annual Thanksgiving Assembly. It was our first opportunity this year to bring the entire school together in one place, to showcase the talents of our students, and to share in the spirit of Thanksgiving. Under the direction of Mr. Mark Hickey, the 7th and 8th grade bands played a great rendition of *Grant Country Celebration; Legends of Soul; Louie, Louie*; as well as the perennial *Hey* song. In addition, Mr. Specian led the 7th and 8th grade chorus through a wonderful performance of *You Can't Stop the Beat*, and *All the Best*. The highlight of the event was a series of speeches by: 8th grader Shipra Arjun, 7th grader Lexie Awiszus, and 8th grader Annie Colbert on the spirit of Thanksgiving. The maturity, intellect, and school spirit of RJG students continues to impress me. It was an outstanding day.

The involvement of our student body can also be seen in activities that reach out to help others. Please remember that our Coat Drive continues through the end of this week so please remember to send in those unused items. Along the same lines, don't forget that this Friday, November 30th, the entire school will walk to the Acton Food Pantry to deliver this year's collection of food. There is no question that the students of RJG should take pride in their commitment to be involved citizens.

Under the leadership of Social Studies teacher Kellie Carter, Project Tamaa is now entering its second year. In this regard, a group of RJG students gather weekly to identify ways to help those in need in Africa. From the Aids epidemic to genocide, poverty to hunger, these students have made it their mission to help others.

This Friday, November 30th, Project Tamaa members will be showing the video *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*, as a fundraiser to help bring clean water to Kenya. Prior to the movie, they will also be airing a short video titled: "UNICEF: Kenya Drought Situation Worsens." Tickets for the Project Tamaa fundraiser will be on sale in homeroom beginning Tuesday and can be purchased for \$4.00. Signed permission slips are required as *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* is a PG-13 rated movie.

Last but not least, I am asking for your cooperation in addressing an important safety issue. Last week, one of our students was nearly struck by a passing car as he walked across the driveway at the top of the stairs from the lower parking lot. While we are extremely relieved that the student was not injured, we also recognize that a new safety procedure is necessary for our busy mornings. Please be aware that between 7:15AM

and 7:30AM, we are blocking all traffic along the south side of the building adjacent to the cafeteria. The front circle will still be accessible from Charter Road next to the tennis courts and Route 111 near the gym. Thank you in advance for your flexibility and assistance.

With Thanksgiving behind us, we have a solid month of relatively uninterrupted time before the winter holiday. The second term has begun, and we are prepared for a lot of teaching and learning to happen before the next vacation break. Let's get going!