

"Laughter is the sun that drives winter from the human face."

Victor Hugo

Grey Matters

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I think the unusually warm fall has lulled me into believing we live in a different climate. The snow and sleet seem to have come out of nowhere! I guess I have to accept that I DO live in New England.

Last Friday, the students of Project Tamaa raised over \$460 to support the "Just A Drop Foundation", a non-profit organization that helps bring fresh water to Kenya by showing the movie Ferris Bueller's Day Off. This event was well attended with over 100 students enjoying the film. Thanks go to chaperones Joyce Kelly, Becky Hadden, Melanie Scalice, Annelise Roach, Maryfran Doiron, Veronique Wolkenhaar, Mike Balulsecu, and Audra Kaplan. I'd like to extend my special thanks to Project Tamaa advisor Kellie Carter for all of her support in organizing the club and this activity.

This Thursday, December 6th, school will be dismissed at 10:40AM for the first of our three parent/guardian and teacher conference sessions. From 11:30 to 2:30PM, parents/guardians will have a scheduled opportunity to spend five minutes with each of their child's teachers to review the results of the term one report cards and to discuss their child's progress. I hope you will find these conferences informative and helpful in our combined home/school efforts to enhance student success.

Each year, over 1,500 individual teacher conferences are requested over the 3 conference sessions (12/6, 12/13, and 1/3/08) and once again, we have been able to accommodate every conference request. I do want to acknowledge the incredible amount of work our own Marcia Charter puts in to balance all requests and doing everything necessary to coordinate a seamless conference schedule. In less than week's time, including staying in the office until 10PM last Thursday night, Marcia processed every request including emailing parents and guardians with their confirmed conference time schedule. Please join me in thanking Marcia for her outstanding work!

I also want to recognize 8 Green Social Studies teacher Tim Nolan for organizing the school wide Acton Food Pantry Drive. Coordinating with 8 teams and close to 1000 students is no easy task yet the process of the day was flawless. It was thrilling to see the entire school come together to help those in need.

Parents and guardians, we could use your assistance. While we remind students of the importance of keeping their lockers locked at all times, there continues to be many lockers left unlocked at any given time creating an unsafe situation. Given that our building is open for regular community events, the general public has access to the school most nights and many weekends. As a result, there have been items in student lockers that have "disappeared." Please remind your children to practice safety by locking their lockers at all time and, whenever possible, refraining from bringing valuable items to school.

I am thrilled to announce that a Juggling Club is beginning this month on Tuesdays from 2:15- 3:30 in Mrs. Mohn's room (#611). Students of all levels are welcome, but please be aware that they will need to bring their own equipment, bean bags, tennis balls, or other juggling balls, clubs, rings, etc. There will be juggling videos and music available. (If anyone has juggling equipment, music, or videos hiding in a closet and not being used, donations would be appreciated! Please drop off such items at the main office and thank you in advance for your contribution.)

We are holding our next 7th grade Social immediately after school on Friday, December 7th, from 2:30 - 4:30PM. Tickets are \$4 and go on sale in homeroom. As a reminder, tickets will not be sold at the door. We hope to see all our 7th graders attend this fun and relaxing activity.

Have a great week.