

“By the time a man realizes that maybe his father was right, he usually has a son who thinks he's wrong.”

Charles Wadsworth

Grey Matters

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While the Chicago Bears will always hold a place in my heart, I have been out east too long not to accept the Pats as “my team.” However, even with this infatuation, I keep thinking that they just can’t keep winning. Even the 1985 Bears lost one game (of course, we all know that the loss did not come in the Superbowl). I wonder how many of us are now watching to enjoy quality football or just to see if the Pats finally lose. I’ll keep my fingers crossed for a perfect season.

The first of our three scheduled parent/guardian and teacher conference sessions (12/6, 12/13, and 1/3/08) was very successful. Teachers were able to share important information, and parents and guardians were provided with an opportunity to learn a little more about their child’s academic progress. This coming Thursday, December 13, school will again be dismissed at 10:40AM for the second parent/guardian and teacher conference session.

This past Friday afternoon, the Student Council sponsored the second 7th Grade Dance of the year. Take 260 seventh graders, provide them with a space to socialize with friends, add music to dance to, and you have a recipe for success. Thanks go to chaperones George Roadman, Denise Roadman, Veronique Wolckenhaar, Megan Lazaroski, Christine Duncan, Maryfran Doiron, Florence Gilfix, Mandy Finizio, Lisa Nichols, Debbie Ahl, Tom Dukes, Allen Warner, Liza Huber, and Kellie Carter. I would also like to thank the following parents for their assistance: Sandy Campbell, Betsy Bentley, Jean Doelp, Brandi Taylor, Tricia Bryant, Meghan Steines, and Neelima Sharma.

Looking back to last year, RJG offered a series of Parent Forums with the goal of providing our families with relevant resources and additional educational support. As these educational forums were well received, we are offering another series this year. Topics chosen are based on parent/guardian feedback and suggestions provided by our faculty as well. **Please be aware that our first Parent Forum is scheduled for this evening and will focus on homework strategies and supports for parents.** All forum topics are described below. We look forward to seeing you!

This Tuesday night, from 6PM – 7PM is my monthly drop in hour. I have had a number of great conversations with parents during this time and encourage anyone with a question, comment, or feedback to come on by.

Team 8 Gold is sponsoring Toys for Tots this holiday season. The toy collection begins today and runs until Friday, December 14th. Toys must be new, unwrapped, and may be dropped off in the box in the front lobby. Thank you in advance for supporting this cause.

It is time again to empty our Lost and Found bin. Please make sure students check to see if their items are still in the school building before it is too late. We will be emptying the lost and found on Friday, December 22, and donating the items to charity.

Have a wonderful week.

Parent Forums

Haggling About Homework? – December 10, 2007 (7:00PM – 8:30PM)

Studying and meeting deadlines is always a part of school. Parents often ask, “What’s the best way for me to help my child with homework?” Students often ask for help and advice on how to organize their homework time, how to balance homework with their other activities and what to do if they find themselves stuck on a homework assignment. A toolbox of study skill and time management ideas will be shared by experienced RJG teachers that will help your child sail through school.

School Discipline – January 29, 2008 (7:00PM – 8:30PM)

Providing each student with guided experiences which promote cooperation and mutual respect is embedded into daily life at RJG. Supporting students in their quest for independence isn’t always smooth. Hear about the approaches used at RJG to help students make good decisions and develop citizenship skills.

Stress Management – February 26, 2008 (7:00PM – 8:30PM)

Managing multiple responsibilities and daily stressors can be hard on students. Staying on top of academic requirements, participating in extra-curricular clubs and activities, while maintaining friendships are all part of a young adolescent’s day. Informative communication is vital to an environment that supports our students in making good choices related to school, and problem solving various situations that arise. Strategies for helping our students meet their own stress management and wellness needs, with the support of their families, will be the focus for this discussion.

Cyberspace and Internet Safety – March 26, 2008 (7:00PM – 8:30PM)

MySpace, Facebook, IM, Blogs – what is everyone talking about? We live in a digital age and our children are actively engaged, sometimes beyond our understanding. Hear about the benefits and disadvantages of cyberworld, and develop a set of strategies to raise your child’s awareness regarding staying safe in cyberspace.