

“Reindeer like to eat bananas”

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The Useless Information Society

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Periodically I take the time to look back at past issues of *Grey Matters*. It may amuse readers to know that a year ago this week, I was rambling about the ‘spring like weather’ and wishing we had some snow. My aching back is reminding me of the old expression, “Be careful what you wish for!” I hope everyone was able to dig out and stay warm during yesterday’s storm.

As we are all aware, the purpose of *Grey Matters* is to provide the parents and guardians of RJG with a direct connection into the happenings of our school community, to update you regarding important events, to seek advice, and to ask for support. Today, I am writing again about the traffic issues on and around the RJG campus and asking for your direct assistance in solving what I view as a significant safety problem.

A few weeks ago I wrote to all of our readers regarding dangerous driving during morning drop off. In response, saw horses were placed in certain sections of driveway around the JHS to block access to certain roads and to encourage slower and safer driving practices. While this action made the crosswalk between the steps from the lower lot to the building safer, it has actually created new dangers. Specifically, there have been multiple times that drivers narrowly missed members of the custodial staff who were moving the saw horses in or out of the road. Additionally, some drivers have begun to drive through the loading dock parking area to avoid traffic backup on Charter Road and Massachusetts Avenue, an area where students often pass. Last week, we had several ‘near misses’ as students were almost hit walking across this lot.

While I recognize that 99.9% of RJG parents and guardians follow all outlined traffic rules and expectations, I am concerned about anyone who might be driving too fast and/or disregarding the established traffic patterns on our campus. These actions jeopardize the safety of all. While I know how frustrating it is to be caught in morning traffic, it is essential that we cooperate to address the serious safety issues I have described above. Thank you in advance for spreading the word and slowing down.

I am sorry to say that there will not be a R.J. Grey Spelling Bee on January 9 (nor a Snow date for the Bee on Jan 10). Earlier this fall, the Lowell Sun announced they will no longer be sponsoring the regional Bee. Since no other newspaper came forward to take over the sponsorship and running of the Bee, there will not be a regional Bee available for many schools in Middlesex County, including schools in Acton. If a regional Bee is

created in the future and there is an interest within our student body, we will look into reopening this activity.

Some of you may receive interim reports this week. As I always say, an interim report does not necessarily mean a failing grade and sometimes, an interim report can be sent home to communicate good news! In general, however, interim reports are typically sent home mid-term when changes in behavior or performance need to be communicated. Should you receive an interim report and have related questions, please contact the classroom teacher directly.

Last week, we kicked off our first Parent Forum of the year with a presentation on homework by English Building Department Head Melanie Scalice and Math Building Department Head Phil Stameris. The evening was well attended and I believe the parents and guardian found the information and discussion very informative. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation will be posted early this week.

Please be aware that we do have a date change for the March Parent Forum. **Cyberspace and Internet Safety** has been moved from March 26 to March 10, 2008 (the original date coincided with Project Wellness Day). Please update your calendars.

We are sixteen weeks into the school year, and the year 2007 is coming to an end. I want to take this opportunity to thank all the staff, students, and parents for making this first half of the school year so successful. I hope everyone has a restful holiday break and enjoys the opportunity to spend time with family and friends.

I look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year.