

*“I always wanted to be somebody. If I made it, it's half because I was game enough to take a lot of punishment along the way and half because there were a lot of people who cared enough to help me.”*

**Althea Gibson**

# Grey Matters

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Happy New Year! I hope everyone was able to use the break to relax and rejuvenate. In between dealing with ice dams and trips to Skaters Edge in Taunton with my 11 year old daughter, I was able to relax and read. Of particular merit was a book by Jodi Picoult titled Nineteen Minutes. In this novel, Ms. Picoult explores the potential catastrophic impact of bullying and teasing on children. While she clearly takes things to an unlikely extreme, it is a worthy read as she provides insight into the issues of bullying and teasing from a child's perspective.

This Thursday, January 3, school will be dismissed at 10:40AM for the third and final parent/guardian and teacher conference session. I hope you have found these conversations helpful in supporting your child.

Most RJG parents are aware that the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District subscribes to an auto-dial system (ConnectEd) which allows designated administrators to send voice messages to small groups of parents and guardians (or the entire district) in a matter of minutes. At RJG, I have used this auto-dial system for a variety of reasons; updating parents and guardians of school wide events, sending reminders regarding team activities and building based issues.

Specific to school delay announcements and/or school closings, most families rely on the TV and/or radio to receive current information. The superintendent and/or his designee utilize the auto-dial system but only for school personnel. In a recent administrative discussion, a suggestion was made to use the auto-dial system to call all families when there is a delayed school opening or school closing due to weather. The most obvious advantage would be to relay accurate information to students, parents and guardians quickly and efficiently. A disadvantage would be receiving an unwanted phone call in the morning for households that prefer to monitor potential school delays/closings on the TV or radio.

Parents and guardians, what do you think? Would you welcome an auto-dial message regarding school delays and closings? Would you find it too intrusive? Please let me know your thoughts on this important issue as I am very interested in your feedback. I will share your input with my fellow administrators at our next meeting.

Our next Parent Forum on school discipline is scheduled for Tuesday, January 29, 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.

Have a wonderful week.