

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome."

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Grey Matters

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Welcome back. I hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable winter break.

RJG's production of High School Musical opens this Friday evening, February 29th. Although opening night sold as fast as a Hannah Montana concert, a few seats remain available for all remaining performances. I foresee that this will be an outstanding show and hope that you will be able to attend!

As the month of March is just around the corner, please mark your calendars for a number of important events.

Each year, the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP) sponsor the achievement and proficiency test of Spanish language for 8th graders throughout the country. In the past, RJG students have won at both the state and national levels. This one and a half hour exam will be administered during the regular school day at the junior high and students will be competing for certificates, awards and prizes in the Spanish 1 Level of the exam. Students may also take this exam in each year of the study of Spanish through Level V. We feel confident that our students will do well on the exam, and this year; the exam will be administered on March 5, 6 or 11.

Our first two Parent Forums were extremely well attended. Topics to date -- Homework Strategies (presented by teachers Melanie Scalice and Phil Stameris), and School Discipline (presented by teachers Gabrielle Berberian and Kellie Carter), provided worthwhile information and promoted thoughtful discussion. Copies of these presentations can be found on the RJG website. Our next forum is scheduled for March 26th (7:00PM - 8:30PM) and will address the topic of Stress Management:

Managing multiple responsibilities and daily stressors can be hard on students. Staying on top of academic requirements, and 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.

Seventh grade parents and guardians, we have appreciated receiving your registration forms for Project Wellness coming up on March 26th and more detailed information will be forthcoming. Also specific to 7th graders, parents and guardians should be aware that the first round of MCAS, the 7th grade ELA Long Composition, is scheduled for March 25th.

Moving beyond the month of March and thinking far ahead, it may seem a bit premature to talk about the 8th Grade Graduation Dance, scheduled for June 13th. That said, many of our young adults are already planning for this special evening so I am sharing some important information. Please remember that this dance is not a formal event, nor is it even a "semi-formal." We ask you not to indulge in fancy clothes, hairdos, and certainly no limos! At the same time, to give this event a special feel, we ask the students to avoid wearing jeans; girls are invited to come nicely dressed (no gowns!) and boys are asked to wear collared shirts. Ties and jackets are not necessary. We also encourage students to come without a date. As always, this dance is for R.J. Grey students only and we appreciate your cooperation.

Have a wonderful week!