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# Grey Matters

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Last Friday night was the opening performance of High School Musical, and it was outstanding. Year after year, the acting, singing, and dancing talents of RJG are cultivated to create a masterpiece, and this year is no exception. Congratulations to musical director Martha Warren, our own lighting and sound directors Jeanne Goulet and Allen Warner, choreographers Samantha Hammel and Annie Leese, producers MJ Wagner and Tammie Burns. I would also like to extend a very special congratulations to our musical director and newest member of the RJG staff, Beth Abrams.

In our continuing efforts to provide comprehensive home/school communication, I want to call everyone’s attention to the new counseling section of our web site:

<http://ab.mec.edu/rjweb/cdabout.shtml>. This new section provides RJG families with general information about the department, an overview of resources available, as well as a series of forms and documents that can be easily downloaded to ease the communication process. Special thanks go to Counselor Jon Duclos and Director of Technology Integration and Instruction Priscilla Kotyk for all their work in creating this new site.

I also want to remind everyone about two important Parent Forums scheduled for the month of March. The first, March 5, from 7- 9:00 PM, will focus on adolescent mental health and is sponsored by Acton-Boxborough’s CAFY (Citizen’s Alliance for Youth), Acton-Boxborough’s Regional PTSO, and NAMI-MASS.

*An evening forum for parents on common adolescent mental health disorders, such as depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, and eating disorders will be held in the R.J. Grey Junior High School library on Wednesday, March 5, 7:00 - 9:00 PM. The first part of the forum will be panel presentations. Two or three young people will share personal stories of their struggles with the parent audience. Dr. Madhavi Kamireddi, a local community adolescent psychiatrist, and Dr. Rick Cowen, school psychologist, will also speak. The panel presentations will be followed by a question and answer session. For more information, contact Judy McKendry at 978-897-9541 or [jmckendry@verizon.net](mailto:jmckendry@verizon.net).*

The second forum, March 10 (7:00PM – 8:30PM in the auditorium), is a presentation on cyberspace and internet safety by Dr. Elizabeth Englander, the Director of the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center (MARC) at Bridgewater State College.

*MySpace, Facebook, IM, Blogs – what is everyone talking about? We live in a digital age and our children are often actively engaged, sometimes beyond our understanding. Hear about how the benefits and disadvantage of this cyberworld and develop a set of strategies to educate our children and raise awareness about cybersafety and cyberbullying.*

With football season behind us, many sports fans have shifted their attention to college basketball. One of the most exciting components of the season is the month long tournament to identify the NCAA champion, often referred to as March Madness. I think most of us are aware that adults sometimes participate in office betting pools, but you may not be aware that there have been rare occasions where RJG students have imitated these behaviors by running March Madness pools in school. As one would suspect, this is a violation of our school rules and could lead to disciplinary actions. With the college basketball finals just around the corner, this might be a good time for parents and guardians to have a conversation about this issue with your children and remind them that such activities are not permitted in school.

Let me wrap up with a targeted message for parents and guardians on 8 Green.

*As you know, on Wednesday, March 12, 2008, 8 Green will be going to Cambridge to the American Repertory Theater to see a performance of Julius Caesar.*

*Due to the performance running time, we will be returning to RJ Grey between 2:30 and 2:45. Students will not be able to take their buses, and transportation home needs to be arranged. We hope that this is not an inconvenience.*

*Please be sure to return the form indicating that transportation for your student has been arranged to your child's homeroom teacher by Wednesday, March 5, 2008. You can also e-mail your child's homeroom teacher indicating transportation has been arranged.*

*If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact 8Green teacher Jennifer Vacca via e-mail ([jvacca@mail.ab.mec.edu](mailto:jvacca@mail.ab.mec.edu)). Thanks so much for your cooperation.*

Have a great week and think spring, please!