

*"I don't paint things. I only paint the differences between things."*  
**Henri Matisse**

# Grey Matters

Volume 5

March 17 – 20, 2008

Number 26

Last Friday afternoon, the Student Council hosted our last afternoon 7th grade social. With almost 250 tickets sold, the dance was well attended and fun was had by all. Many thanks to chaperones Mandy Finizio, Denis Reedy, Debbie Ahl, Denise Roadman, George Roadman, Grady Roadman, Christine Duncan, Maryfran Doiron, and our Acton Youth Officers, Jim Goodemote and Keith Campbell. Thanks also go to parent helpers Cathy Utt, Susan Richmond, Jean Doelp, and Elaina Kourepenos.

At last Monday's Parent Forum (our last forum for the year), Dr. Elizabeth Englander, Director of the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center (MARC) at Bridgewater State College, provided an important presentation on the changing nature of the internet, the growing dangers of cyber bullying, and how parents can help their children make healthy decisions. Copies of her handouts can be downloaded from the MARC website: <http://webhost.bridgew.edu/marc/downloads%20parents.html>.

Reflecting on all our Parent Forums this year, relevant and informative topics were covered. Ms. Scalice and Mr. Stameris, classroom teachers, addressed homework strategies for students and their families. Ms. Berberian and Ms. Carter, also classroom teachers, presented on proactive school discipline and the ways in which our school provides a safe and supportive learning environment. Mr. Duclos, school counselor, and Ms. Serino, school psychologist, addressed issues of student stress in our demanding world. I hope everyone found the presentations helpful. Looking ahead to next year, we are always looking for new ideas and critical topics yet to be addressed. Should you have thoughts or ideas in this regard, please drop me an email with your suggestions.

The MCAS season is just around the corner beginning with the 7th grade English/Language Arts Long Composition on March 25. Full school wide sessions are scheduled for May and more specific information will be forthcoming. The teachers of Acton and Boxborough have provided a fantastic education and the students are well prepared. A good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast is helpful as well.

As a reminder, school will be closed on March 21 in honor of Good Friday.

Have a great week.

Craig Hardimon  
Principal

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