

“..... *What is living if I can't be free; What is freedom if I can't be me.....*”

**Bonnie Raitt**

# Grey Matters

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I hope everyone received the reminder postcard to join us tonight, Monday, September 24, for the RJG Back To School Night!

At 6:30PM, I will be meeting with 7th grade parents in the Blanchard Gym to talk about the philosophy of our school, general communication practices, and the developmental, academic, and social needs of our students. I hope this presentation will provide you with some important information as to how the RJG is designed to meet the needs of young adolescents and how we can work together and support one another during this important time.

At 6:45 PM, Mark Hickey and Bob Specian will meet with parents of Band and Chorus students to review the RJG Performing Arts program.

From 7 – 9PM, parents and guardians are invited to follow their child's schedule and meet their child's teachers. In each class, parents will listen to a brief presentation by the teacher regarding classroom practices and the curriculum being covered for the year. During this evening, teachers are not available to answer specific questions about individual children. Should you have questions and/or concerns, please schedule a separate time when both you and the teacher can meet to address them. They will be happy to do this.

During Back to School Night, the 7-Red Team will be selling AB sweatshirts, T-Shirts, and flannel boxer shorts. Proceeds will be used to benefit local and international hunger relief efforts. Sweatshirts are \$25, T-Shirts are \$10, and the boxer shorts are \$15. Checks should be made payable to "RJ Grey Junior High School" and cash will be accepted throughout the evening. If the merchandise runs out, orders will be taken. Thanks for your support!

As part of our Back to School Night program, we did want to remind you to park only in designated parking spaces. The Acton Police Departments works very hard to insure our safety and will be vigilant to ensure clear emergency access to our building and the campus at large. To avoid being ticketed or towed, please be sure to find a designated parking space in one of the following parking lots:

- The RJG Parking Lot – *adjacent to Charter Rd (west side)*
- The Parker-Damon Parking Lot - *adjacent to Charter Rd (east side)*
- The High School – *north of RJG at bottom of Charter Rd*
- Kmart – *across route 111*

Last Wednesday, we held our first fire drill of the year. I was very impressed with the behavior of our RJG students and the leadership of our staff. Everyone moved calmly throughout the building, making every effort to follow all fire drill procedures and adapting to the inevitable glitches. The students are to be commended for taking the exercise seriously. They followed directions and remained appropriately quiet. While we all hope that students and staff never need to leave the building in an emergency situation, it is comforting to know that the RJG community is ready.

While it would be wonderful if all of our students remained healthy all year and never missed a day of school, this is not realistic. We recognize that students will miss a day or two for the various bugs that go around. When this happens, students should see their teachers for missed work as they will be given an appropriate amount of time to get caught up. There are, however, times when students are out of school for more than 3 days. In such cases, we would appreciate you contacting the Main Office (ext. 3303) or the Counseling Department (ext. 3330) to provide us with more information and to discuss possible ways of supporting your child with missed class work.

A number of parents have asked me if there is a method to prepay for school lunch. The answer is “yes”. Parents interested in this program should send a check with their child in even increments of \$2.00. Please be aware that these funds can only be used for a \$2.00 lunch. Students will not be able to prepay for snacks or any other ala-carte items which will require cash. Checks should be written to the *Acton Boxborough Regional School Lunch Program* and brought to Kitchen Manager Elaine Livermore in the Food Services office (across from the kitchen entrance) between 7:15AM-7:30AM.

Have a good week.