

“Sports serve society by providing vivid examples of excellence.”

George F. Will

Grey Matters

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Even with a blowout 4th game in Colorado and a clean sweep of the series, my favorite moment was Daisuke Matsuzaka at the plate in game 3. For no good reason, I had anticipated that he'd stand there like former Red Sox pitcher Pedro Martinez with no intention of swinging the bat. Instead, Daisuke got the hit that started the 3rd inning rally. There was a “giving it all” attitude that moved me. The bottom line is that it was a great victory for all Red Sox fans, and we all get to go to sleep at a reasonable hour again.

Last Friday afternoon we held our first 7th Grade Social. With over 300 tickets sold, it was extremely well attended, and everyone had a good time. Thanks go to chaperones Pat Garrison, Chris Mohn, Marc Lewis, Becky Hadden, Amanda Correia, Melissa Hayes, Jeanne Goulet, Jeanne McDonald, Audra Kaplan, Judy McKendry, Annelyse Roach, John Edmonds, Judy Clark, Christine Duncan, George Roadman, Maryfran Doiron, Janet Rodero, and Caroline O'Brien. I'd also like to thank parents, Patrice Gallagher, Ferideh Heshmatpur, Christine Phillips, Laura Wordsworth, and coordinators Neelima Sharma, Joanne Urso for all their time and support.

While the dance was fun for all of us, I am hoping you can assist us with a perennial issue. While the vast majority of parents and guardians pick up their children immediately after each dance, we regularly have several students waiting for rides long after the dance is over. Last Friday, after the 7th Grade Social ended, chaperones waited with students over 45 minutes until the last ride came. This situation often causes significant anxiety on the part of the waiting students and disrupts family obligations for the waiting staff. Parents and guardians, please check the school calendar and daily announcements to confirm the end time of all such events and make arrangements for your child's transportation at the conclusion of the event. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Wednesday is Dress Up Day, sponsored by the Student Council. While this event is a wonderful way for our student to express their creativity, mutual respect is paramount. Costumes that contain inappropriate language, pictures, or symbols will not be allowed. Costumes that try to be funny at the expense of a person or group will also not be allowed. As always, face paint and hats are allowed, while masks are not. Parents and guardians, please review these expectations with your child before they leave for school.

I also wanted to highlight a special activity hosted by our World Language Department this week. Robin Crown and Lillian Ramos, two of our World Language teachers, have provided me with the following background for the cultural lesson pertaining to El Dia de Los Muertos.

This week, Spanish classes at R.J. Grey Junior High School will be celebrating an Ancient Mexican Festival which is known as El Día de los Muertos (The Day of the Dead). In the Mexican tradition there is no greater duty than to commemorate their departed loved ones and the Day of the Dead is the most important religious observance of the year. "It is a time to remember those whom we have lost. We remember them not in sorrow but in happiness." Preparations for this holiday begins weeks in advance and culminate on November 1 and 2 when families visit cemeteries. They bring flowers, candles, incense, food and drinks to honor those relatives who have passed away. Some give parties that last all night at the gravesites. This is not a morbid occasion, but rather a festive time. To Mexican families, death has been traditionally viewed not as an end of existence but as a getaway to other levels of existence.

I'd like to suggest that this is an excellent opportunity to have a conversation with your child about the celebration described above. Ask your children to explain what they are doing in their Spanish classes and what they are learning. Needless to say, there is a wealth of educational experiences available to our students which make me proud to be a member of RJG!

While I mentioned it last week, I wanted to remind parents and guardians of 8th graders that the 8th grade Minuteman Tech High School visit is scheduled for this Thursday, November 1st. I'd also like to remind you that all Acton, Boxborough, and Acton-Boxborough schools will be closed on November 6th for our Professional Day.

Finally, Friday, November 9, marks the end of the first term. Parents, please remind your child to check in with his/her teachers to be sure that all assignments have been submitted while there is still time. Every little bit counts! You should also be on the look out for report cards, which are scheduled to be brought home by your child the week of November 20. When you get the report card, please review the demographic information and report any mistakes (i.e. misspellings, incorrect address, etc) to the RJG main office. If there is a question on a grade or a comment, please contact the teacher directly by phone, note or email.

Happy Halloween!