

“The idea of an election is much more interesting to me than the election itself...The act of voting is in itself the defining moment.”

Jeff Melvoin

Northern Exposure, Democracy in America, 1992

Grey Matters

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November 7th marked the end of the first marking term at RJ Grey and students are scheduled to receive their report cards during the week of November 20. While our teachers have done a wonderful job providing students and families with consistent feedback since the beginning of school, this will be the first “official” RJG document of the year.

For some, report cards will reflect the ease with which students have made the transition to the junior high. These students have made the adjustments necessary to succeed at the middle school level and are performing as expected. To these students I say “Congratulations!” This is a great way to start the year but essential to keep up the high caliber of work.

For others, the information provided in the report cards may indicate that a transition is still in process and that there is room for personal growth. This is not inherently a bad thing or reason to be discouraged. The report card is only one tool for assessing progress and performance and ultimately can be a great compass for carving a path for improvement. Now is a great time for students to reach out to their teachers and counselors to build in the supports necessary to ensure a successful year.

One of the goals of our social studies program is to teach students about active citizenship and this year's presidential election was a wonderful opportunity to connect our curriculum to the "real" world. Students studied the election process as well as each presidential candidate's views on the economy, education, health care, foreign policy, etc. There were group discussions, posters and, in some classrooms, debates. Anticipating Election Day, all RJG students participated in a mock election. In response to parents who had questions about this curricular activity, please be assured that our goal was not to sway student opinion one way or another, but rather to stimulate their knowledge of and interest in the electoral process.

This year's national Election Day was our District's professional day and RJG teachers, specialists and clinicians had the opportunity to focus on the topic of Stress: Causes, Symptoms, and Management. What we learned is that stress comes in all shapes and sizes and managing it through focused student wellness activities is essential. Dr. Cynthia Kaplan provided insights as to how life has changed for children and young adults over the last ten years and how we as educators can support and help our students develop

resiliency and minimize potentially destructive behaviors and decisions. There will be lots more information on this topic as the year progresses.

Minuteman Regional High School in Lexington is having its annual Community Open House on Sunday, November 16 from 12:00pm - 3:00pm.

Come learn about our Academic and Career Programs, View Student Demonstrations and Displays, Talk with Minuteman Staff and Parents. For more information please call 781-861-6500 ext. 219 or visit our website at www.minuteman.org

Have a good week.