

“You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty.”

Mahatma Gandhi

Grey Matters

Volume 6

December 1 – 5, 2008

Number 13

We have many families in the RJ Grey community who have close personal and/or family ties in India, and the violent and sad events in Mumbai are undoubtedly difficult to watch from our homes here in Massachusetts. I want to express my tremendous sense of sadness regarding these terrorist attacks and to extend our support to any families who may be affected. As there are many supportive adults available in school, please encourage your children to reach out if there's anything we can do. Members of the counseling department are readily available to provide opportunities to talk and lend support; teachers and administrators as well.

As always, I am proud to work at RJG where teachers and students are dedicated to community outreach. Locally, as we begin to focus on the holiday season ahead, our school has a tradition of providing food to our local Acton Food Pantry. This school wide-effort involves parents, teachers, and students bringing in donations the beginning of next week. On December 8th and 9th, 7th and 8th grade students from all teams will walk to the Acton Food Pantry to deliver all items. While the pantry accepts any food item that has not exceeded its expiration date, cereal, pasta, canned beans, bagged white rice, peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti sauce, macaroni and cheese, tuna, canned fruit, infant formula, tooth brushes and toothpaste are particularly well received.

In addition, 8 Gold is sponsoring a toy drive for area families this holiday season. The toy collection begins today and will run until Wednesday, December 17. Toys must be new, unused, and unwrapped, and may be dropped off in the collection box in the front lobby. The donated toys will be taken to Maynard as part of the Maynard Police Department's toy drive. Last year the toy drive donated toys to 178 children in 73 local families.

Finally, I want to remind everyone that we will have an early dismissal on Thursday, December 4, at 10:40AM for our first day of parent/teacher conferences which begin at 11:30AM. Additional conferences are scheduled for December 11 and January 8. Marcia Charter, my skillful administrative assistant, has coordinated the scheduling of these conferences and has confirmed all conference requests via email. If you have requested a conference and have not received a confirmation email, please contact Ms. Charter at mcharter@mail.ab.mec.edu right away.

Have a good week.