

“Perhaps I am a bear, or some hibernating animal underneath, for the instinct to be half asleep all winter is so strong in me.”

Anne Morrow Lindbergh

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We want to wish members of the RJ Grey community a happy Chinese new year, which began this past Sunday. On the Chinese calendar, 2009 is Lunary Year 4706-4707. In the Chinese calendar, each year is represented by one of 12 zodiac animals (Dog, Pig, Rooster, Dragon, Ox, Sheep, Horse, Rabbit, Snake, Monkey, Rat, and Tiger).

As a point of interest, this is the Year of the Ox. If you were born in 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, or 1997, you - along with President Obama - were born under the sign of the Ox. ~If you'd like to find out what zodiac animal your birth year is, you might want to access the following Time Magazine website:

<http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1873900,00.html>

One of many special activities at RJG is our 7th and 8th grade school dances; a wonderful way for students to relax and connect socially with friends from other teams. These dances are listed in the RJG school calendar, publicized by the Student Council, and announced during daily announcements. Typically, we find that ticket sales are slow at the beginning of the week, and increase significantly by the weeks' end.

In a rather unusual occurrence, the dance scheduled for January 23 generated only 12 ticket sales. Accordingly, we made the decision to cancel the dance. Since this activity is extremely popular, we believe that many students might have chosen to attend the A-B high school varsity basketball game, also scheduled for the same Friday evening. Historical trends show that competing activities do occur from time to time, and we anticipate that the next round of dances will have greater interest. I'm delighted to think that our students are finding safe and healthy ways to get together with friends, and we are lucky that our schools are able to provide such options.

While the Friday night dance may not have generated the excitement we would have liked, Saturday certainly made up for it. Well before the sun rose on Saturday morning, 150 RJG students met in the parking lot to board the buses for our annual ski trip to Waterville Valley. Two hours later, we arrived at the resort for what proved to be a beautiful and adventure packed day. It was also quite chilly. By the afternoon, the temperatures at the base were in the low teens with 40 mile per hour winds at the top. Needless to say, much of the conversation in the lodge was about the virtues of dressing in layers and finding the nearest cup of hot cocoa! The arctic climate kept many people off the slopes allowing those crazy folks from Acton and Boxborough to have the mountain to themselves. A round of applause goes to Elizabeth Broadwater for her picture perfect organization of the day. Thanks also go to all the staff and parents who

chaperoned: Maryfran Doiron, Bob Doiron, Sara Dorion, Yvonne Benelli, Jim Ehrenfried, Michael Smith, Larry Boisvert, Brian Crossman, Camille Crossman, Jennifer Mullon, Lynne Kondracki, Alan St Lawrence, Carol Knowles, Sandy Egnatz, and Stephen Egnatz.

Time is moving quickly and students have completed their first semester of school. Monday, January 26 (not the 27th as erroneously stated in last week's *Grey Matters*) marked the end of the second term, and report cards are scheduled to be sent home the following week. Everyone in our RJG family – parents/guardians, staff, and students alike – should be proud of the great learning that has taken place so far this year.

Have a good week,

Craig