

"Character is what you have after the third and fourth try."
James Michener

Grey Matters

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This Tuesday night, from 6-7PM, is my monthly drop-in hour for February. As always, please feel free to swing by to share your thoughts and/or to discuss your favorite singer for this year's season of American Idol.

Thursday, February 12, is R. J. Grey's Blue and Gold Day. On this day, students and staff show their school spirit by dressing in school colors and participating in special team activities. The day ends with a school wide assembly. During this assembly, the 7th and 8th grade bands perform, and we take a moment to recognize all the students who participate in school sports, clubs, and other activities. This is a special time to highlight the many wonderful things students do for our school and their home communities.

Announcing our First Annual Staff vs. Student Basketball Challenge! This exciting event will be on Friday, February 27th, from 2:30-4:30 in the RJ Grey Gymnasium. Our very own RJ Grey Teachers and Administrators will take on our 7th and 8th grade basketball teams. This will be a fun event for all- spectators and players alike- and all ages are welcome. Tickets will be \$5.00 and pizza, drinks and snacks will also be available for purchase. All proceeds will help fund our 7th Grade Project Wellness program. If you would like to donate food items or help with this event, please contact Kate Murray at (978) 264-4700, ext. 3287.

As a point of information, the Commonwealth Leadership Academy offers a program for teachers wishing to become certified as administrators. I am thrilled to announce that two RJG staff members, Elizabeth Broadwater and Marc Lewis, have been accepted into this program. Not only will this experience provide them with future career choices, I believe that the opportunity to view our school from a broader lens will also increase their already considerable value to our school community. A component of this program provides teachers with the opportunity to participate in a 6 week internship with a principal. Accordingly, Elizabeth's internship begins Monday, February 9th, and will continue through March 27th. Marc's internship begins on March 23rd and will continue through May 8th. During their internships, long-term substitutes will be teaching their respective courses, and Elizabeth and Marc will be serving RJ Grey in an entirely administrative role/capacity.

Looking back over the past two years, RJG has offered a series of Parent Forums, with the goal of providing our families with relevant resources and additional educational support. As these educational forums were well received, we are offering another series this year. Topics chosen are based on parent/guardian feedback and suggestions provided

by our faculty as well. **Our first Parent Forum is scheduled for Wednesday, February 25, and will focus on homework strategies and supports for parents.** All forum topics are described below. We look forward to seeing you!

Haggling About Homework? – February 25, 2009 (7:00PM – 8:30PM)

Studying and meeting deadlines is always a part of school. Parents often ask, “What’s the best way for me to help my child with homework?” Students often ask for help and advice on how to organize their homework time, how to balance homework with their other activities and what to do if they find themselves stuck on a homework assignment. A toolbox of study skill and time management ideas will be shared by experienced RJG teachers that will help your child sail through school.

School Discipline –March 31, 2009 (7:00PM – 8:30PM)

Providing each student with guided experiences which promote cooperation and mutual respect is embedded into daily life at RJG. Supporting students in their quest for independence isn’t always smooth. Hear about the approaches used at RJG to help students make good decisions and develop citizenship skills.

Stress Management – April 28 (7:00PM – 8:30PM)

Managing multiple responsibilities and daily stressors can be hard on students. Staying on top of academic requirements, participating in extra-curricular clubs and activities, while maintaining friendships are all part of a young adolescent’s day. Informative communication is vital to an environment that supports our students in making good choices related to school, and problem solving various situations that arise. Strategies for helping our students meet their own stress management and wellness needs, with the support of their families, will be the focus for this discussion.

It is time again to clean out our Lost and Found bin. Parents and guardians, please remind your children that they need to track down those missing sweatshirts, coats, hats, and shoes. Any items left in the lost and found bin at the end of the week will be donated to charity.

Our winter break is just around the corner (February 16 – 20). At this time, I want to acknowledge and thank the RJG staff for their hard work, energy, and ongoing commitment to our students. The upcoming February vacation is well deserved and whether you are traveling north for the snow, south for the sun, or heading to the far shores of Acton and Boxborough, I wish all of you a restful week.

Craig