

*"I used to be a design but now I am a tree."*

**8 yr old**

# Grey Matters

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Let me begin this edition of Grey Matters by reflecting back to last week's Grade 6-7 Transition Evening where current RJG students participated in a panel discussion for incoming 6th graders, offering advice and support regarding the transition to junior high. This was a well attended evening. From curricular highlights to organizational advice, from the best part of lunch to the qualities of Otis Spunkmeyer cookies, our students were articulate, supportive and helpful to the incoming 6th graders and we were incredibly proud of them. Thank you to our students: Adin Bohmiller, Lauren Trimble, Emilia Soeltz, David Nicholson, Carly Chinitz, Andrew Hoang, Annalise McDonald, Elton Tian, Samarth Gupta, John Sabbey, and Moderator, Jake Yu. Thank you to our elementary principals and our 7th and 8th grade parent volunteers as well: Andrea Koumjian-Trimble, Karyn Finamore, Anne Noeth, Dixie Edmond, Sandy Billings, Jennifer Cyrs, Karin Quantrille, Kristen Durand, Archana Gupta, and Carolyn Nicholson.

I would also like to thank Jon Duclos, Kellie Carter, Bob McGowen, Julie McKinley, and 7th grade students Hai Alvarex- Millard and Rory Lowe for participating in the parent portion of the evening. Through their comments and insights, parents of incoming 7th graders gained valuable information about the support systems available at RJG.

This past Friday evening, almost 350 8th graders participated in the 8th Grade Graduation Dance where our energetic young men and women enjoyed Kimball's ice cream, other assorted goodies, and romped the night away. It was a special evening and a wonderful way for the class of 2013 to come together to put closure on their time at RJG.

As always, we have a great deal of assistance and support from parents and staff, and our 8th grade dance was no exception. Our Chairpersons Julie McKinley, Elaina Kourepenos, and Chris Renzi did an amazing job and the following parents were extremely helpful as well: Set Up and Decorations - Deborah Reichert, Christine Phillips, Maria Cox, Joy Nelken-Wieder, Robin Davidson-Catalano, Sharon Schulman, Tammie Burns, Michelle Christensen, Darlene Butler, Tracy Groves, and Jennifer Cyrs; Snack and Beverage Servers and Ice Cream Scoopers - Deane Cole, Chindy Yi Zhou, Linad Moreno, Chris Renzi, the McKinleys, Karen Sullivan, Erika and Derrick Chin, Hong Qian and the Albertsons; Balloon Delivery - Pia Finneran, Darcy Sidwell, Melissa Hatanaka and Sue Ropiak; Clean Up - Stacie Bettinson, Susan Richmond, Phillip Alvarez, Sheryl Kokkinos, Del Friedman, Anne Xiao-min Bi, Lucy Awiszus, and Matthew Liebman; Purchase - Cathleen Griffin.

I would also like to thank the newly elected class officers - Annalise McDonald (President), Elton Tian (Vice-President) Samarth Gupta (Treasurer) and John Sabbey (Secretary) and 7th graders Bridget Ashton and Julia Marcotte for their assistance.

An event like this requires a great deal of planning and coordination and a heartfelt thank you goes to Debbie Ahl, our wonderful Student Council Advisor. This is Ms. Ahl's second year as class advisor, and she has done an extraordinary job supporting our class officers Jake Yu, Suzanne Wang, Chris Walsh, and Ryan Barrett in planning and coordinating a tremendous year of activities. Ms. Ahl's time, energy and hard work is very much appreciated and we are very lucky to have her in charge!

Last but not least, a big thank you to the RJG staff who chaperoned this event: Carmen Comella, Cindy Chalmers, Bernice Higdon, Debbie Ahl, Susan Probolus, Susan Heartlein, Jen Vacca, Tim Nolan, Mike Balulescu, Liza Huber, Amanda Cence, Becky Hadden, Brandy Schmirer, Liza Levitsky, and Pat Higgins.

At this time of year, I know we are all juggling the multitude of events and activities for our children.

As a reminder, the 7th and 8th grade Variety Shows are scheduled for next Tuesday, June 23rd. As mentioned earlier, this student assembly is a fantastic opportunity for students to demonstrate their special talents to their peers. Much of last week was spent rehearsing and I expect the shows to be terrific! Given the limited auditorium seating, this show is for RJG students only.

A final reminder pertains to the actual last day of school, Thursday, June 25. Please be aware that the entire school will travel to the high school for our end-of-year assembly, and students will be dismissed directly from the high school at 10:45AM. Those students who typically ride the bus will board at the high school. Parent pick-up will also be at the high school, at the back circle driveway (just off Hayward Road).

Last summer 2008, the District's administrative team made a commitment to talk about our school community, acknowledging that our student population and community demographic is becoming more diverse. A major outcome of the summer was to initiate conversations with staff and faculty through a study group; a study group committed to discussing our shifting international landscape with the goal of developing three surveys; one for staff and faculty, one for parents and guardians and finally, one for students in the fall of 2009.

The purpose of the surveys is to provide information regarding the differing educational goals, perspectives, and priorities found within our school and community.

Please share your voice by clicking on the link below and completing the survey by June 22nd. It is so important to reflect the interests of the RJG community, and we really need to hear from you!

The resulting themes will be discussed at the district's upcoming leadership institute at the end of this school year. Thank you in advance for your participation. Please be assured that all input is anonymous.

The link is:

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=4SmKi1pYsq8x83OO0Zv6yA\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=4SmKi1pYsq8x83OO0Zv6yA_3d_3d)

Have a good week.