

“Vacation used to be a luxury, however, in today's world, it has become a necessity.”

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Grey Matters

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A belated Happy Father's Day to all our A-B Dads. Whether you spent the day with family and friends, or getting soaked on a golf course (as I did again), I hope you enjoyed your special day.

End of the year events and activities are a big part of school this week. Yesterday, despite the rainy weather, all students enjoyed our field trips; 7th graders had a great time and enjoyed ice cream, miniature golf, the new arcade, and the bumper boats at Kimball's Farm. Eighth graders had a beautiful time at Canobie Lake Park. With short lines due to low attendance at the park, RJG students ignored the drizzle and thoroughly enjoyed their day.

As a reminder, today marks the last day of school where all students and staff will travel to the high school for our end-of-year assembly. Students will be dismissed directly from the high school at 10:45AM. Those who ride the bus will load at the high school. Parent pick-up will be at the high school back circle driveway (just off Hayward Road).

This past Tuesday, RJ Grey student greatly enjoyed the 7th and 8th grade student variety shows where students had an opportunity to demonstrate their talents to their peers. Much of last week was spent rehearsing and the effort and commitment was clearly evident in the final performances. Great job everyone! A special thank you to all parents who were supporting this event behind the scenes and to Ms. Weeks, Ms. Berberian, and Ms. Gaebel who coordinated this event. It was a smashing success.

With the final days of school dwindling, the items in our lost and found are growing. Please make sure students check to see if their items are still in the school building before it is too late. We will be emptying the lost and found on Friday, June 26, and donating the items to charity.

For those of you who find it helpful to plan far ahead, I wanted to give our parents and guardians a heads-up about our somewhat different than usual September 2009 schedule. School will begin on Tuesday, September 1, and will be in session through September 3rd that first week. There will then be a four-day Labor Day weekend (Friday - Monday), and school will resume on Tuesday the 8th. (This caught my attention as I was planning a family vacation, and I wanted all of you to be aware of this as well.)

As we near the end of a wonderful school year, I pause to consider how RJG teachers, specialists and school counselors provide the essential ingredients for a positive learning

experience. Over the years, the faculty has prioritized the need to value and nurture a student's self-esteem and self-reliance. In addition, they work together to promote enthusiasm, creativity, responsibility, empathy, respect, and cooperation. I appreciate their innovation and commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of children, and I appreciate the opportunity to work with them each and every day.

I do want to take this opportunity to highlight our school's dedication to the Acton and Boxborough communities through wonderful examples of community outreach. All of our teachers have facilitated or participated in team activities designed to encourage student involvement in a range of school/community service projects; contributing to our local food pantry, organizing fund raisers for charity organizations, and providing support to our conservation areas. Please join me in congratulating our teachers as I am sure we can all agree that learning about the difference we all can make when we give service to our communities.

I also want to acknowledge our student body; our current 7th and 8th graders. While we know that students learn from their parents and teachers, they also learn from their peers, and from a range of interpersonal interactions. I am proud of the academic goals our young adolescents have achieved, and how they have demonstrated active citizenship. On behalf of the RJ Grey faculty, it has been an honor to be part of the lives of our young adults, to watch them take risks, grow and succeed. As they move ahead to their next set of challenges, I wish them continued energy and motivation to persist and achieve.

Finally, let me end this final edition of Grey Matters to thank you – our parents and guardians – for the tremendous support you have given our school throughout the year. Your participation and commitment has been an essential part of our success and my gratitude is heartfelt.

Every day, RJ Grey prides itself on effective performance; through setting high expectations, exploring new ideas and improving what we do. The year has passed quickly and June 25th marks the end of another wonderful year. On behalf of the RJG administrative team (Andrew Shen, Allison Warren and myself), I wish you an enjoyable and healthy summer.

Craig