

"The best way to predict the future is to invent it."

**Alan Kay**

# Grey Matters

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Last Thursday evening was Back to School Night at RJG, and it was a wonderful evening. The building was jam packed with excited parents and guardians navigating the halls, meeting their children's teachers, and learning about the curriculum for the year. I had an opportunity to speak with many parents throughout the evening, and one of the most common themes I heard was how impressed you were with the passion of the teachers and the supportive classroom environment that has been created. Thank you to the PTSO who provided home baked goodies and cider for all.

During my opening remarks, I spoke about our commitment to strong home/school communication. If you did not get a chance to complete and submit the "RJG Junior High Opening Days Feedback Form" at Back to School Night, or were unable to attend altogether, we still want to hear from you. Forms can be picked up and returned to the Main Office. If you prefer, please feel free to complete the form online using the following web address:

[http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07e2dbihcjfl154wze/\\_tmp/greeting](http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07e2dbihcjfl154wze/_tmp/greeting)

For those of us who may not be aware, this Wednesday is the Muslim holiday of Eid-al-Fitr. Eid-al-Fitr (the Festival of Fast Breaking) is a 3-day celebration marking the end of Ramadan. We encourage any parents and/or students who observe this holiday to let their teachers know so that appropriate arrangements can be made for students to have extra time to complete work.

As part of our emergency response procedures, RJG students and staff routinely practice a variety of drills. During the first two weeks of school, we ran a very successful standard fire drill where students had to leave the building, and muster in the lower parking lots until the "All Clear" signal was given; an indication that it was safe to return into the school. In preparation for building evacuations during inclement weather, last Wednesday we practiced our "Inclement Weather Evacuation". During this time, the entire RJG community walked across Charter Road into the Parker Damon Building with 7th graders mustering in the cafetorium and the 8th graders mustering in the gym. It was another successful drill, and I want to thank the administration and staff of McCarthy-Towne and Merriam schools for their cooperation.

Now that the school year is underway, it is exciting to see how many of our students are involved in after school sports and activities and I am thrilled with the wide variety of offerings available. Parents and guardians, just a reminder that there are no "late bus" options for students and families must arrange for their own transportation. Accessing late start elementary school buses to ride home is not an option as those buses are at capacity. Thank you for your cooperation.

Finally, this Friday, October 3rd, from 6:30PM - 8:30PM, the student council is sponsoring the first 8th grade dance of the year. Tickets will be sold in homeroom this week for \$4 and will not be sold at the door. Parents and guardians, please assist us in running a successful event by making sure to pick up your children promptly at 8:30PM. We greatly appreciate your assistance.

While staff chaperones are the mainstay of our dances, we are in the process of generating an updated list of interested parent chaperones as well. For those of you interested in being a parent chaperone for this Friday's dance or any future dances, please send me an email at [chardimon@mail.ab.mec.edu](mailto:chardimon@mail.ab.mec.edu). As a reminder, the 8th grade dances can only be chaperoned by parents of 7th graders, and 7th grade dances can only be chaperoned by parents of 8th graders. Chaperones would not be serving refreshments in the lobby, but instead would be present in the gym with other staff members. A brief training prior to the dance is provided to meet staff and receive instructions. CORI approval is required as well.

Have a good week.