

“Winning is important to me, but what brings me real joy is the experience of being fully engaged in whatever I'm doing.”

Phil Jackson

Grey Matters

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The school year is off to a great start. The 7th graders have begun to settle in and are making RJG their new home. The energy within each team and within each classroom has been exciting to see and I am thrilled to see our 8th graders stepping up to be role models for our school.

Thank you to Andrew Shen and Bob Daley for all their efforts in making sure that every student has a functioning locker, and kudos to all the teachers for their patience in showing the students how to open those lockers! I also want to acknowledge Steve Hall, Director of Technology, and all members of the Technology Resource Center (TRC) for the intensive summer maintenance of the technology in our building and all the work necessary to allow us to be up and running on day one.

RJG is a wonderful place to be!

As everyone is aware, the Acton and Acton-Boxborough School Districts have moved to an electronic permissions format for student emergency cards and PTSO permissions. While many RJG families have completed these two on-line forms, we still have a number of parents and guardians who have yet to complete either. In this regard, I do want to point out that it is easy to complete the emergency card, but overlook the permissions form (and vice versa). If you have not already done so, please follow the directions from our August mailing and complete these important “to do’s”. Should you have any questions regarding this process, please call Marcia Charter at 978-264-4700, ext. 3303 for assistance. If you completed the emergency card and/or the parent permission form in hard copy, please disregard this reminder as you are all set!

For parents/guardians interested in taking a more active role in our school, let me take a moment to talk about the RJG School Council. The school council is comprised of a school administrator, teachers, and parents who are responsible for assisting the principal in identifying the educational needs of students, reviewing the annual budget, and formulating a school improvement plan and educational goals. At RJ Grey, our school council participants will also play an important role in meeting the requirements of our building based Health Advisory Council, an important element of the district’s Wellness Policy.

This year, two parents or guardians of 7th graders are needed for participation on the RJG School Council.~ Interested candidates should submit a short paragraph about themselves

by noon (12PM) on Friday, Sept. 25th for the ballot and voting will take place at Back-to-School Night on September 30th.~ Write-ups should be sent to PTSO Co-Chair Chris Renzi at: chrisrenzi@comcast.net ~ or Principal Craig Hardimon at: chardimon@mail.ab.mec.edu.~

As most everyone is aware, I offer a monthly “Drop-In Hour” for parents and guardians the second Tuesday of every month, from 6:00 – 7:00PM. **Please note that my first monthly drop- in hour is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13th, NOT September 15th as indicated in our school calendar.** I look forward to meeting with many of you over the course of this year.

Regarding transportation services at RJG, I want to thank our transportation department for all their hard work in developing the bus routes that accommodate all of our students. It is important to note that with the increase in enrollment and bus usage, all of our buses are currently at maximum capacity. As a result, we will not be able to write bus passes for students to travel on alternate buses. Should space become available later in the year, we will certainly inform parents of routes where bus passes can be considered.

While still on the topic of transportation, some of you may have noticed that the traffic pattern around the building has changed. Specifically, speed bumps have been added in the driveway leading from the front loop to Charter Road and this driveway is now one-way. If you wish to enter the front loop from Charter Road, we ask that you first enter the campus from the entrance on Rt. 111 or by the tennis courts. These changes are a direct result of some serious “near misses” over the past few years and we appreciate your flexibility as we make our campus safer for our students.

Finally, I must ask all parents/guardians to be cognizant of our schools’ drop-off/pick-up procedures. We are still struggling with cars being parked in pre-assigned spaces, students being dropped off in unsafe locations, and buses being blocked in the front loop. Please be aware of the following reminders:

- 1 Between 7:00AM – 7:45AM and 1:45PM – 2:30PM, the front entrance loop is for buses only. Other vehicles are not to enter the loop during these times.
- 2 Student drop off and pick-up is allowed at the bottom of the steps in the lower parking lot only. *This lot is located east of the building, behind the tennis courts, just off Charter Road. Please pay particular attention for students entering and/or exiting cars when driving through this area.*
- 3 Parents are asked to enter and exit the parking lot via Charter Road, not Mass. Avenue (Route 111). *Driving through the campus during bus drop off and pick-up interferes with the buses and causes unnecessary traffic problems.*
- 4 Students are not to be dropped off in front of the Blanchard gym or in the parking lot on the west side of the building. *Again, doing so interferes with our school buses and causes unnecessary traffic problems.*

- 5 Parent parking is only allowed in the lower lot and in the visitor spaces off the front loop. *Please note that these visitor spaces are for short term parking only.*
- 6 Cars are not to be parked – momentarily or otherwise – in the front loop except in a legitimate visitor’s space.
- 7 Lastly, please remember never to pass the buses.

If you have not already done so, please mark September 30th on your calendars as our Back To School Night beginning at 7:00PM. For 7th grade parents, please remember to join me at 6:45PM on that same evening for a brief presentation on the developmental needs of 7th and 8th graders and the various ways the administration, faculty and staff support our students.

Have a great week.