

*“I think of a hero as someone who understands the degree of responsibility that comes with his freedom.”*

**Bob Dylan**

# Grey Matters

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Last week was the first full week of the year. While many of us, students and staff alike, looked a bit tired by Friday afternoon, everyone was engaged, focused and clearly back in the swing of school.

At RJ Grey, learning is an experience that extends beyond the classroom. Our aim is to be solidly grounded in understanding a child’s development, while providing an intellectually stimulating and culturally rich curriculum. To this end, please take note that our school clubs and activities are getting started and getting involved in one or more of our after school activities and programs is a great way to make new friends and become an active part of the RJ Grey culture. Please encourage your child to participate as we have a wealth of teams, clubs, and activities to consider. That said, there are only so many days in a week and as a result, students often have to make choices. Parents and guardians, please be aware that students are not required to attend every meeting of any given club thus providing them with the opportunity to participate in multiple activities. Clubs and activities are announced during our daily announcements broadcast over the PA and emailed to parents each day. Please get involved!

On the subject of health of wellness, it would be wonderful if all our students remained healthy all year and never missed a day of school. Unfortunately, this is simply not realistic and we recognize that students will miss a day or two for the various bugs that go around. The district’s website is updated weekly with important information regarding flu preparation and it goes without saying that students should stay home when they have a fever, persistent cough or sore throat. When this happens, students should see their teachers for missed work as they will be given an appropriate amount of time to get caught up. Should your son/daughter be out of school for more than three days, we would appreciate you contacting the Main Office (ext. 3303) or the Counseling Department (ext. 3330) to provide us with more information and to discuss additional ways of supporting your child with missed classwork.

Our newly appointed superintendent, Dr. Stephen Mills, has asked Liza Huber, our APS/ABRSD Director of Pupil Services, to facilitate an Anti-Bullying Task Force, being kicked off the ground during the month of October. In order to be fair to all interested parents and guardians, and expecting a great deal of interest, we are asking that parents, who are interested in joining this Task Force, to write no more than a one page email statement explaining what they might be able to contribute to the Task Force. These submissions should be addressed to Liza Huber at [lhuber@mail.ab.mec.edu](mailto:lhuber@mail.ab.mec.edu). Other

members of the Task Force will include teachers, administrators, counselors, and central office staff, as well as Ms. Sharon McManus, Chairperson of the Regional School Committee. Submissions will be reviewed blindly by Superintendent Mills and three parents will be selected. Thank you in advance for your interest and commitment to this important initiative.

A number of parents have asked me if there is a method to prepay for school lunch. The answer is "yes". Parents interested in this program should send a check with their child in even increments of \$2.00. Please be aware that these funds can only be used for a \$2.00 lunch. Students will not be able to prepay for salads, snacks, or any other a la-carte items which will require cash. Checks should be written to the Acton Boxborough Regional School Lunch Program and brought to Kitchen Manager Elaine Livermore in the Food Services office (across from the kitchen entrance) between 7:15AM-7:30AM.

We are once again participating in the West Acton Oktoberfest Road Race coming up on Saturday, October 3rd at 10:00AM (registration and check in at 8:30AM). The starting point of the race is the Gates School and ends up at the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Windsor Avenue. For every participant, RJ Grey receives a \$5.00 contribution and we are encouraging students, parents and staff to participate in this fun, community sponsored event. Entry forms are available in our main office, or register online at [www.mwcoc.com](http://www.mwcoc.com). If registering online, make sure you include RJ Grey Junior High PTSO as your charity designation.

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.

I also want to remind everyone that school will be closed on Monday, September 28th for Yom Kippur.

Have a wonderful week.