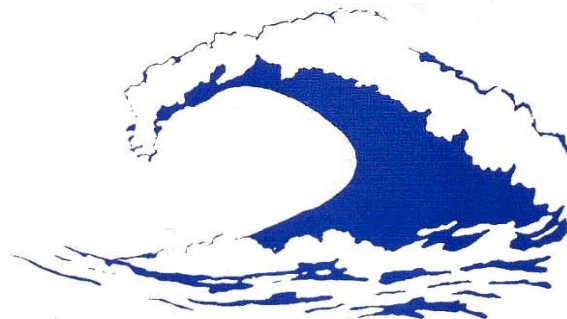


PACIFIC GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL

835 Forest Avenue
Pacific Grove, California 93950
(831) 646-6568
FAX 646-6652
www.pgmiddle.org

Buck Roggeman, Principal
Maryn San Filippo, Assistant Principal
Janie Lawrence Counselor



THE PGMS WAVE *A CALIFORNIA DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL*

February 2012 NEWSLETTER

The Buck Stops Here

By Buck Roggeman
Principal

Making it Meaningful

A common question that teachers receive from students is, "Are we ever going to use this?"

When students pose this question to instructors what they are really asking is, "Why is this important?"

At Pacific Grove Middle School this quarter, our focus is on activities that will emphasize how the content taught in class relates to the students' lives. This goal is part of a yearlong program to implement strategies based on research from the Marzano Research Laboratory.

Our entire staff attended a daylong training at the beginning of the school year to learn teaching methods that make the classroom more engaging for students. Since the training, our staff has been using the book *The Highly Engaged Classroom* as a resource for ideas to implement in their instruction.

This quarter's focus on relevance – answering the question, "Why is this important?" – is a result of that work.

Examples abound regarding how teachers relate content area to their students' lives.

In science, Mrs. Terry frequently uses articles from the newspaper to show human impact on the environment

around them. Mr. Binder conducts a lab where students extract their own DNA using cells scraped from the inside of their mouths.

Our English teachers allow students to choose their own topics for their persuasive essay and research papers.

History presents several opportunities for teachers to relate the subject matter to students' lives through comparing the events of history to what is occurring at school.

In math, students use real world data to draw conclusions after a numerical analysis.

During several of our Thursday staff development meetings, our teachers have engaged in fruitful discussions about student progress and developing lesson plans to engage them.

Over the next few weeks, our instructors will continue to explore ways in which they can continue to make their instruction meaningful for their students.

The first two quarters focused on building a comfortable classroom environment for students and making the content as interesting as possible for our kids.

To finish the year, our school wide focus will turn to helping students answer the question, "Can I do this?"

All of these factors are important contributors to keeping students engaged in class.

Supervised free-time by Maryn San Filippo

Pacific Grove is often considered America's Last Hometown but with the title can come a false sense of safety. Our students are safe but they still need supervision, even when they have un-structured free-time.

A friend recently shared with me how he felt so free knowing that his son is only a cell phone call away in this safe, small town. This is rare in modern day society. We are so lucky to live in such a wonderful community. I agree with this friend but only to a degree. Some of our students still have too much freedom. This freedom can quickly lead to impulsive behavior. As with any learned skill, independence needs to be given gradually. The free reign plan for this age group will surely back fire. We need to teach them how to be responsible, independent young adults.

This month I would like to share a few simple reminders that will allow your children to grow into teens and young adults, enjoy a healthy social life, but still have structure and boundaries, which all middle school age kids need!

Know where your child is. If a child calls and says they want to go to a friend's house, ask if an adult will be home, and then check! If a child is going to walk somewhere after school, ask for the exact route and any stops to be made along the way. Then call back at the estimated time of arrival. If your child says "But everyone else is going/doing it/has it/etc.", don't fall for it. Not everyone else is going and if you want to check, ask another parent. As parents, work with one another to keep your children safe and accounted for. This will help your child to see that you value their time with friends, but also love them enough to know where they are at all times! This type of structure will build trust that can lead to more independence, which should be earned, and is not a right.

Gain access to all. Your child is a minor and should be treated thusly. If you pay for your child to have a cell phone or access to a computer, you should have access to everything they do with those devices. Know who their friends are. Check their text messages. Go online and check your child's Facebook account or other blogs. View their internet history. Take the time to watch them play the video games you purchase for them or go online and research the content of them. Your child has easy access to unlimited amounts of inappropriate information all around them. As a parent you have every right to monitor and limit their access.

Be a role model at all times. I know this is easier said than done. Your pre-teen or teenage child is watching, listening and repeating at all times. The line "Do as I say, not as I do" just doesn't work so well with this age group. They have been taught to question, analyze, and evaluate in school, and they have made that connection in their social lives. The language we use as adults, the judgments we make, the behaviors we display, are the same things I give students consequences for at school. Remember that even when you think your child is not paying attention, which they do so well, they really are taking it all in.

I'm the first person to say that I'm not a parent and I know it is not an easy job. What I do know, is how your kids think. They say they want freedom, but much more than that they want to know they are loved and cared for. By giving them support and structure, guidance, and guidelines they will know they are safe. And we will know they are safe as well!

Campus Culture Committee Members Needed

Pacific Grove Middle School is forming a Campus Culture Committee, and we are looking for parents and students who are interested in joining the group. Although the mission of the committee will be defined in upcoming meetings, the main purpose of our group will be to promote kindness and compassion at PGMS and teach students positive ways to handle conflict.

If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact Andrew Johnson at his email address ajohnson@mbayaq.org by February 10. We look forward to your participation.

Math Club News:

We have elected officers and changed our constitution to reflect our desire to go on a math-related field trip with the proceeds from our fundraising at the Asilomar Math Conference. Sixth graders are studying hard for the Algebra Readiness Tests which will be held Tuesday, March 27th in the school library during periods 2 and 3. All qualifying 6th graders (A- minimum for first semester grade and benchmark) will be taking the tests.

7th graders are playing with the math puzzles and games we bought at the math conference.

The other major event this semester is the Mathletics competition which will be held on Saturday, May 12th. After the Algebra Readiness Tests, we will be gearing up for this.

All are welcome!

Just Run 3K

We invite EVERYONE to participate in the JUST RUN!® Just Kids 3K Fun Run. The run will be held at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 28th, 2012, rain or shine. Students, families, and community members from all over Monterey County will meet at Lovers Point Park for the start & finish of the event. For the tiniest participants, there is also a 1.5K option. The cost is \$5 for youth and \$20 for adults. All participants will get a finisher's medallion and post-race refreshments, raffles, and entertainment. This event is non-competitive and not timed.

We hope that you will encourage everyone you know to participate! Running is very popular throughout our Central California communities and running is a fast step toward a healthy lifestyle. Plus, there will be \$14,000 in prize money for P.E. programs awarded to schools with the best participation in 15 categories. TEAM PGMS has participated since 2004, and so far we have earned \$2,250 because of our large turnout! Let's get another big, enthusiastic team together and win one of those cash prizes again!

How to Get Involved:

Mrs. Murphy is coordinator once again. She has Registration Forms in the office, locker rooms, and at her work station. Get one form for every member that would like to enter the race (minimum age: 4 years unless child is in a stroller with registered adult). Note: There is NO online registration.

Only preregistered participants will be counted for school participation. THE REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14th even though the race is on April 28th.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH January 2012

Each month our faculty selects students of the month for all classes. These students have excelled in one or more of the following areas: ongoing academic achievement, exemplary accomplishment on a particular project or unit, excellence in attitude, effort or improvement.

The selected students are professionally photographed and their photos are displayed on the bulletin board next to the office. A letter is sent home, along with the photographs, bumper sticker, and certificate from the teacher. Congratulations to all of the selected students!

Algebra	Brendan MacLaren
Pre Algebra	Chanyoung Woo
Math	Zoe Wilson
English Rasmussen	Dominik Prado, Keaton
Core	Mengfan Zhang, Bailey Dutson, Abigail Brewer
Spanish	Kevin Zamzow-Pollock
Marine Science	Michael Paff
Science Serratos	Jacob Hoadley, Serenity
Social Studies	Stephanie Procive, Mehki Anker, Michael Moran
PE	Kip Johnson

Office Assistant	Huda Khalil
History Martinez, Noah Thanos	Kianni

STAR Testing Information

CA STAR Writing Test for 7th Graders Only

On **March 6, 2012**, all 7th graders will be taking the CA State STAR Writing test. Please encourage your child to eat a healthy breakfast and get a good night's sleep prior to the test. Please don't schedule doctor, dental and ortho appointments on that day. In case of an unforeseen absence, make-ups will be held on March 7th only.

Stay tuned for schoolwide STAR testing information which will occur sometime during the weeks of April 16 - 27.

**AB 354: The 7th – 12th Grade
California Immunization Law
California Department of Public
Health, Immunization Branch**

What PARENTS Need To Know

Frequently Asked Questions

**What is the new Tdap requirement
for 7th – 12th graders?**

Starting July 2011, a law (AB 354) changed California immunization requirements for all students entering

7th-12th grades goes into effect. The law requires:

For the upcoming school year (2012-13) and future school years, all students entering into 7th grade will need proof of a Tdap shot to start school.

What is Tdap?

Tdap is a booster vaccine for older children, adolescents, and adults. It safely protects against 3 dangerous diseases: tetanus, diphtheria, and whooping cough (also called pertussis).

Why was the Tdap requirement added?

This new requirement will help protect your child and others in your school and community from whooping cough. Whooping cough is a serious disease that causes coughing fits that can last for months. It can be deadly for infants. In recent years, whooping cough has been increasing in the United States. In 2010, whooping cough was widespread in California.

**What are the diseases tetanus,
diphtheria and whooping cough
(pertussis)?**

Tetanus – (also called lockjaw) causes painful tightening of the muscles. It can lead to “locking” of the jaw so the person cannot open his/her mouth or swallow.

Diphtheria – is a throat infection that can lead to breathing problems, paralysis, heart failure and death.

Whooping cough – (also called pertussis) is a contagious disease that causes violent coughing fits that make it hard to breathe. It spreads easily when someone with the disease coughs or sneezes.

Symptoms can last for months. Whooping cough is very dangerous for young babies.

When should my child get vaccinated?

Now. A large number of students need a Tdap shot before the start of school next year. Avoid the rush and make sure your child can start school on time. Make an appointment for your incoming 7th grader to get a Tdap booster shot now.

Children as young as 10 years old are recommended to get vaccinated with Tdap. This will protect them against the ongoing threat of whooping cough and will meet the Tdap school requirement for when they are in 7th grade.

Keep documentation of your child’s Tdap booster shot in a safe place. Your child will need proof of immunization in order to start school.

**What if my child has had whooping
cough recently or in the past?**

Your child will still need a Tdap booster shot. Immunity developed after having whooping cough disease wears off, leaving your child at risk for getting whooping cough again. A Tdap booster shot is needed to both protect your child in the future and to meet the school requirement.

Why should my child get vaccinated?

In addition to it being a new requirement for starting school, children who get a Tdap booster shot will be better protected during their school years. Immunization also helps to protect others within the home, in the community, and at school.

Immunizations help to prevent school closures. Many schools in California have suffered from outbreaks of whooping cough. Students got very sick and parents missed work and lost wages to care for their sick children. In some cases, schools had to close because there were not enough healthy teachers to keep schools open.

Continued on next page

Where can my child get vaccinated?

Children should visit their regular doctor or health care provider to get their Tdap shot. Children 18 years old and younger who are uninsured or underinsured may qualify for the Vaccines for Children Program. To find a provider near you, call 1-877-243-8832 or visit:

www.eziz.org/pages/vfc_locations2.html.

Some local pharmacies and Health Departments may also offer the Tdap vaccine.

What if my child does not have proof of a Tdap shot before school starts?

He/She may not start school. Any student who does not have proof of getting a Tdap booster shot will not be allowed to start school until proof of immunization is given to the school.

Are immunization exemptions allowed under California law?

The same exemptions for children entering kindergarten apply.

What if my child has received a Tdap booster shot before 10 years of age?

Your child will be considered to have met the new school requirement with proof of getting a dose of Tdap on or after their 7th birthday. However, we recommend that children receive Tdap on or after their 10th birthday to provide better protection throughout their adolescent years.

What other immunizations should I consider for my child?

Preteens and teens are also recommended to receive vaccines against meningococcal disease (brain or blood infection), flu (influenza), HPV (human papillomavirus, a cause of cervical cancer), and any vaccine they may have missed during childhood. The recommended vaccine schedule may be found at www.getimmunizedca.org. Talk with your healthcare provider for more information.

Should parents and others at home get the Tdap vaccine?

All persons 10 years and older are recommended to be vaccinated with Tdap now if they haven't done so to protect them against the ongoing threat of pertussis. Immunization also helps to protect close contacts, including young infants for whom

pertussis is most severe and sometimes fatal.

Where can I go for more information?

For more information, visit the California Department of Public Health, Immunization Branch website at

<http://www.getimmunizedca.org>.

This information provided by the State of California—Health and Human Services Agency

Attention Parents of 8th graders!

Please be aware of the following dates. Watch for additional information in the mail from Pacific Grove High School.

PGHS Registration Packet will be sent home with 8th graders on March 9th. The packet will include course descriptions and information regarding classes and registration for 9th graders.

Parent Information Night: March 13th, 6:30pm in the PGHS Library. PGHS will mail parents of 8th graders an invitation to attend and additional information regarding the registration process. The presentation will be led by a PGHS Counselor.

Online registration: March 14th and March 15th at PGMS in English classes. Counselors from the high school will come to the middle school to help students register for courses online. In addition, parents will be able to monitor (and make changes to) their student's selections online through PowerSchool.

Math Assessment: March 21st, 3:15pm at PGHS. Students who need to take a math assessment will be notified by mail.