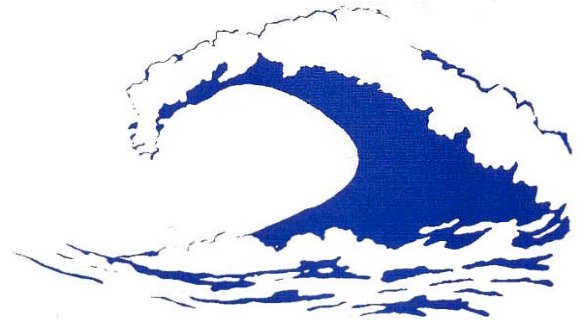


PACIFIC GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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*

January 2012 NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

The Buck Stops Here
By Buck Roggeman

A New Beginning

At the Middle School, the New Year means a new beginning.

Not only will we be ringing in 2012, but we begin the second semester.

For students, this means a completely clean slate. Whether they experienced great success or struggled in class, they will all be starting off at the same spot when they enter class on Jan. 10.

It is a great opportunity for students to take their New Year's resolutions for a test drive. In fact, goal setting can be a great conversation to have with your middle school student.

My suggestion when setting goals is to focus on the process rather than the product. Instead of setting a goal to get straight A's, discuss quality work habits and the success will follow.

Here are a few ideas that can keep your student on track:

- 1) Hand in every assignment. Most of the time when students' grades slip it is a result of missing assignments. Turning in everything will not only help their homework grades, but it almost always results in more successful test results as well.
- 2) Write down every assignment in your planner. One of the keys to completing an assignment is

remembering what you have to do. Encourage your child to log every assignment in his/her planner and check that planner before packing up to go home.

- 3) Organize the binder. By the middle of the year, binders begin to deteriorate. Restock the binder with fresh folders, paper, and writing utensils. If the binder is near destruction, replace it. This can also augment the feeling of a new beginning.
- 4) Set aside a consistent study time Sunday through Thursday and stick to it. If your student does not have homework, he/she can still use the time to read, review material from a class, or play academically oriented games during that time.
- 5) Encourage your student to come to class with an open attitude and joy for learning. Being in the right frame of mind can make all the difference in the world.

Five resolutions can be overwhelming so have your student choose one or two. Focusing on the process of doing well in school will help teach your child how to be a successful student by encouraging work ethic and effective routine.

I hope everyone – students, parents, and staff – had a restful and rejuvenating Winter Break.

Now, it's time to get back to work!

LUNCH CLUBS @ PGMS Maryn San Filippo

OCEAN GUARDIAN CLUB - Mondays in Rm 3: The Ocean Guardian Club continues to promote ocean conservation on campus. This year, club members have worked hard writing a new mission and vision statement, launching the club's first website, and participating in the Adopt-a-Seal program through the Marine Mammal Center as a sponsoring organization. We look forward to continuing our efforts to raise student awareness of issues related to the health of our local and global marine environment.

SURF & SKATE CLUB – Tuesdays in Rm 21: The Surf and Skate club held coffee and tea sales at the annual math conference raising money to buy club t-shirts. Club participants have been riding skateboards (with helmets) to school on a regular basis since the club's recent beginning. After winter break the group will be holding a skate demo at lunch to show off their talent and inspire others to view skating as a form of athleticism and an art. This spring the club will be organizing a Ride-to-School day and are looking forward to adding special skate lockers on campus.

BE THE CHANGE CLUB – Tuesdays in Rm 38: The Be The Change stemmed off of Challenge Day which our seventh graders participated in earlier this school year. The students in this club discuss ways to promote a school culture where students treat one another with respect and kindness, and where bullying is not tolerated. This fall the students created a video to showcase good deeds and kindness being paid forward. They also participated in our Red Ribbon Week activities. This is a club where students can make friends without feeling judged or being worried they may be mistreated. Chat with our Counselor, Mrs. Lawrence if you are

interested in joining this great group of students.

MATH CLUB – Tuesdays in Rm 39: The Math Club has accomplished a lot so far this year. We signed up the 6th graders for the online Pre-Algebra class at www.pearsonsuccessnet.com. The 7th and 8th graders sold bottled water and earned community service hours by helping out at the Asilomar Math Conference held here at the middle school the first weekend in December. We then elected officers and have been playing with the math toys we bought at the conference. Next semester, the 6th graders will begin studying the packets designed to prepare them for the Algebra Readiness Tests they will be taking at the end of the 3rd quarter to see if they are eligible to enter Algebra as 7th graders. The older students will be focusing on preparing for the Monterey County Mathletics competition in April. We are having a successful year with very enthusiastic members. However, there is still room for more and all are welcome!

MUSIC CLUB – Wednesdays in the Music Room: All instrumental musicians are welcome to join the Music Club. You can play with students not in your regular music classes. Students create small groups and work on pieces they are interested in. If you would like extra practice time or want to explore more of yourself musically, talk with Ms. Priest and join this club!

EPIC YOUTH CLUB – Wednesdays in Rm 11: Epic Youth is a student lead club that explores how to be a youth leader. Students play games, learn chants and cheers, discuss how to make our school a better place, all the focus of being drug and alcohol free. This club lead student minute-to-win-it activities for our Red Ribbon Week this year. This is a great club to make new friends and to find the leader in you!

CHILDREN'S BOOK CLUB – Thursdays in Rm 37: In this club students write and illustrate their own children's' book with the hopes of sending to a publisher and having the books published. We may also go to the elementary schools to read to the K-2 kids. If you are interested in becoming a published writer, come join the Children's Book Club!

PUZZLES & GAMES CLUB – Fridays in Rm 3: Mrs. Ohsiek opens her classroom each Friday for students to play games, complete puzzles and just have fun! She will continue this club next semester. Come check it out!

CHESS CLUB – Fridays in Rm 6: Mrs. Jones hosts the chess club on Friday. Whether you are a beginner or an expert, all students are welcome to come play chess. Hope to see you there.

CHILDREN TO CHILDREN CLUB – Fridays in Rm 37: Students of PG so far have raised over \$9000 in support of the Remera Mbogo orphanage in Rwanda. Currently, we are working on raising money for 100 mattresses at the cost of \$40 a piece, and currently have raised enough for 17. Also, we are doing a nation-wide letter writing campaign to see if we can elicit middle schools across the country to join our club.

7th Grade Entry Immunization Requirement

The new State law requiring all students entering 7th grade to show proof of the whooping cough booster shot (Tdap) became effective July 1, 2011. If your student has had the immunization, please bring their updated immunization record to the school office. If he or she has not had the immunization, please call your health care provider to get the vaccination. Students who have not received this

booster shot will be excluded from school until they do. If you have any questions, please call the school office at 646-6568.

FIRST SEMESTER ENDS DECEMBER 23

We have reached the midpoint of the 2011-2012 school year. Report cards will show grades from the first semester. These grades are particularly important since credits/units for promotion to the next grade are determined by these grades. Conduct grades will be used to determine eligibility for school dances and other activities. Please call Ms. Lawrence if you have questions or concerns about your child's report card.

There are two requirements for promotion: 1) earning the required units; and 2) completing the required community service hours (16 hours earned by the end of 8th grade). General information can also be found in the Student/Parent Handbook that you received at the beginning of the year.

Eighth grade students who do not earn the required units each semester will not be promoted to high school. Students must have completed a total of 16 community service hours to earn promotion. Sixth and seventh grade students will not promote to the next grade level until the units are earned. Summer school may be available for students to make up units; however, some students may not earn the necessary number of units for promotion to the next grade level during summer school. **Also as a reminder, 7th and 8th grade students who are not eligible for promotion until they attend summer school will not be eligible to attend the promotion dance on May 24th. Eighth grade students in this situation will not be included in the promotion**

ceremony, dance, or 8th grade Great America trip.

At the beginning of the second semester many 7th and 8th grade students will take a new elective class. Students were pre-scheduled for their electives for first and second semester based on their choices from last spring. Generally speaking, students may not repeat an elective class. If an elective is closed based on numbers, or if a student is slotted to repeat an elective, we will/may assign an elective. Students in Instrumental Music/Band or Vocal Music will continue with that class. If you have any questions about this process, please call Ms. Lawrence at 646-6568, ext. 304.

Honor Society

The Second Quarter Honor Society Breakfast will be held on Tuesday, January 24, 2012 at 7:30 a.m. in the PGMS gym. Students must have a 3.5 GPA to be invited to attend. Parents are encouraged to accompany their children.

HONORS NIGHT GUIDELINES

Even though the end of the year seems a long way off, we want to make sure everyone is clear about the guidelines for recognition on Honors Night.

Students will be recognized in a ceremony on Tuesday May 1, at 6:30 p.m. in the PGMS Auditorium. This program will recognize students that have maintained at least a 3.5 GPA **for each of the first three grade marking periods of the school year.** This 3.5 GPA will be based on the letter grades received for each course. Pluses and minuses will not be considered. Speakers for Honors Night will be selected by staff from among those students who have maintained a 4.0 GPA. Various scholarships will be awarded that

evening. This is truly a special evening and we are looking forward to recognizing the many fine, hard-working students at our school.

Did You Forget???

In an effort to help your child become an independent Pacific Grove Middle School student, we have some suggestions. Each morning check the following with your student: Do they have their lunch or lunch money, all homework and SIGNED papers in their backpack, P.E. clothes, AND does everyone know their after school plans? Every student will forget something sometime, but each year there are some students who forget repeatedly.

Parents call in daily about these forgotten items and want notes sent to their student during class time. These notes interrupt valuable classroom instruction time. We are asked to send about 20 notes a day that can be avoided with a little planning. Over the course of the year this is about 3600 interruptions.

Instead, we are asking parents to drop off the item in the school office and we will hold it until the student comes for it. Talk with your student about checking in the office when they realize they have forgotten something. Students may check in between classes, at break or during lunch. If they need to call home they can use classroom telephones. Together we can help our students become responsible and reduce the large number of instructional interruptions.

HOTLINE IS USER-FRIENDLY

Most parents know that the School Site Council funds a hotline each year. This service is provided so that you or your student can let us know about situations at school that could be harmful.

The hotline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. **THE NUMBER IS 646-6666.** Callers may remain anonymous. The hotline is checked daily by an administrator who will look into every legitimate concern, if enough information is given to follow a lead.

Please don't think that your concern is not important enough to leave us a message. Often it is the "small things" that can be nipped in the bud that prevent major problems later on.

Cafeteria News.

Did you know that breakfast is the most important meal of your child's day?

It provides the nutrients and energy they need to concentrate in school. Research shows that students who eat breakfast get better grades, pay more attention and behave better in class.

Make time

Try and allow 10-15 unhurried minutes for breakfast. Suggest several healthy breakfast choices and let your child choose. TIP: Can do this the night before to avoid decision making in the morning.

Make it healthy

Give your student a mix of protein (milk, eggs, cheese or meat) and carbohydrates (whole-grain cereal, fruit, and whole wheat bread). The carbohydrates boost energy and the protein will keep their body going strong until lunchtime.

Make it kid-friendly

Waffle wonder: Toast a whole grain frozen waffle, cover with sliced strawberries and

blueberries, and serve with low fat cottage cheese or yogurt.

Purchase breakfast at school

At break time students can purchase a meal in the cafeteria for \$2.50. Included in the meal is an entrée, a fruit and milk. The choice of entrée's include bagel and cream cheese, breakfast burrito, assorted muffins, whole grain pancakes, assorted cereals, yogurt or peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Milk served is either 0% chocolate flavored, or 1% white. A la carte purchases can also be made.

Help your student begin their day on the right foot.

Questions, please contact the Nutrition Director at 646-6521 or at dhobson@pgusd.org



SAFETY CONCERN

Parents, please be reminded that we do not have supervision on campus prior to 8:00 a.m. Students should not arrive at school earlier than this time unless they are enrolled in a first period class or are going to the library, which opens at 8:00 am.

Students who arrive early and just "hang out" run the risk of getting into trouble or becoming injured through playing some type of game, which has happened in the past. Your cooperation with keeping your students off campus until 8:00 a.m. is appreciated.

GETTING TO AND FROM PGMS SAFELY

PARENTS: Please follow our rules when dropping off and picking up your child here at PGMS. Do not enter either driveway, because students are constantly crossing within the lots to get to their classes. Dropping your child off on Forest Avenue on the school side is safe – your child can step directly from the car onto the sidewalk. Please do not drop your child on the side opposite the school (believe it or not, this happens). Other drop-off/pick-up spots are Hillcrest and Sinex. HEY!!!! Better yet, if you live just a few blocks away and if your child can be with a buddy, walking or biking are the best ways to go!

STUDENT OF THE MONTH December 2011

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 1 Jon Marchiolo
Pre Algebra Cathy Nader

English Hannah Cox, Liam Headley, Maggie Lindenthal-Cox, Dominique Perez-Coleman, Woo Chan Shim

Core Jieun Song, Avery Becklenberg, Carlos Melendez, David Kim, Mary Grebing, Nick Mah, Destiny Hoshii, Ella Schwirzke, Todd Price, Becky Philips, Ashley Kim

Social Studies Eric Cuellar, Annabella Sizer, Brandon Early

Office Assistant Aiyana Thomas

Science Serenity Serratos, Christina Hashimoto, Caroline Gruber, Tristan Detrait

Spanish Kevin Bangert

Marine Science Rachel Shatto

PE David Tuffs

ELD Jessica Xu, Mai Kaewrawang

History Kolby Foster, Maggie Lindenthal-Cox

Art Bisher Reehani, Colby Burnell, Todd Price, River Watts

PTSA News

*staff send out a great heartfelt
THANK YOU!!*

PGMS- PTSA December Highlights and “Thank Yous”

- **12/3 – Fund Raiser @ the annual Math Conference!** PTSA hosted a Salad Bar during the annual Teacher Math Conference held on PGMS property this year. Big thanks to: Joanne Nolan Stewart for leading the project and to Mary Jo Moore and Bethany Rutberg for helping build the salads and more thanks to PGMS students: Jane Weichert and Hannah Renner Bennett and mom Hillary Bennett for helping with sales! We also thank *Taylor Farms* and *Passion Purveyors* for their generous donations of produce and boxes to support our PTSA efforts!
- **12/7 – PGMS 6th Graders’ Mini Golf Party!** *Approximately fifty 6th graders showed up to try their hands at mini golf. They glowed in the dark, encountered sharks and octopus and even had one Hole-in-One! Great fun was had by all who attended! Thanks to Dana Marshall and Audrey Kitayama for organizing this event and thanks to all the many 6th grade parents who rallied for the snacks and beverages and support duties!*
- **12/9 – A Holiday Luncheon for PGMS Teachers and Staff!** ‘Tis the season for celebrations, delicious dishes, beautiful décor, and good company! Thank you to all the parents who cooked, baked, set-up, served and cleaned-up! *The PGMS teachers and*

- **12/9 – PGMS Winter Dance Party – festive and fun!** One hundred thirty PGMS 7th and 8th Graders attended this year’s winter dance. They danced, laughed, and ran about, all to the music by DJ Jordan! The girls looked beautiful and the guys looked dashing! Over \$100 was raised for the Monterey County Food Bank (an \$800 value) and 50 cans of food donated! Big THANK YOUs go out to PGMS students: Cameron Reeves, Noah Thanos and his father Jon Thanos for the awesome back yard decorations and fun layout! And thank you to all for donating snacks and chaperoning!

PTSA Events coming up in January

- **1/11 – PTSA Meeting @ 7pm in the PGMS Library**
- **1/24 – Honors Breakfast Celebration – Hosted by 8th grade!** *All students making Honor Roll are invited to bring their family and join in the celebration of academic achievement. Please mark your calendars and join us at 7:30 am in the PGMS Gym.*
- **1/25 – Conduct Club Lunch Party at the Youth Center – Hosted by 8th Grade!** All students receiving Outstanding conduct are invited!

Special note about January – 8th Grade Families ... We need your help and support! There are TWO celebration events planned for January that eighth grade is scheduled to host! To offer your support, e-mail Petula Lee at: PetulaLee@Hotmail.com or call her at: 238-3486! She will find a job just for you!!