

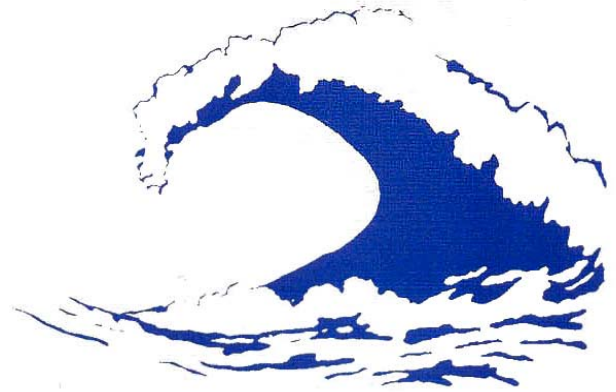
# PACIFIC GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL

*A California Distinguished School 2001 – 2004, 2009-2012*

*"We are rising like the tide"*

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Buck Roggeman, *Principal*  
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## THE PGMS WAVE AUGUST/SEPTEMBER, 2011 NEWSLETTER



### Principal's Message

The rooms have been scrubbed, the new lockers are in, and the construction trucks have left. Summer is over and school is back in session. There is nothing better.

To all of our returning students, welcome back. To all of our new students, welcome aboard.

To everyone, we look forward to another year of excellence in education – an education focused on improving our students' minds, health, and character.

We will improve our students' minds by delivering classes that are interesting and based on the California educational standards. Our talented teaching staff is rejuvenated and well prepared to teach the fundamentals of English, math, history, and science. Our physical education instructors will teach teamwork and how to exercise for good health. Our elective teachers will impart important knowledge in topics ranging from home economics to Spanish to music.

We will also do our part to help improve our students' health. At the forefront of the health education program at PGMS will be a school wide effort to help our students find a Natural High rather than succumbing to the lure of drugs and alcohol. We will also continue to offer and promote healthy food choices for snacks and lunch while avoiding junk food and soda. Additionally, there will be plenty of opportunities for physical activity and sports throughout the school day.

Another important endeavor we will undertake as a school is character development. We are committed to making Pacific Grove Middle School a bully free zone.

We want students to look forward to coming to a school where they will be respected, where compliments will drown out insults, and where people are polite. It's a big goal, but we have the kind of students and adults who are committed to great accomplishments.

Our returning students will find that some things have changed while many others have remained the same.

The construction on our campus has ended for a while, leading to upgraded facilities including new lockers and modular classrooms that are ready for kids.

There will be a few new adult faces at our campus including four teachers and an assistant principal. The big bald guy who was the assistant principal is now the principal, and I am so excited to help lead this school.

Pacific Grove Middle School has adopted the motto, "We are rising like the tide." This phrase represents the journey our students take as they rise from elementary school, together become junior Breakers, and ultimately ascend to high school. The saying implies constant improvement, steady growth, and a swell of support for our students to realize their dreams.

2011-12 will be an outstanding year, and we are ready to make it happen.

Welcome aboard!

*Buck Roggeman*



## NEW PGMS STAFF!

We have a host of new personnel to welcome to our staff.

**Maryn San Filippo, Assistant Principal.** Beginning in the front office, we welcome back Maryn San Filippo. Many of you are already familiar with Maryn thanks to her experience teaching math here a few years back. Since then she has worked as a counselor in the East Bay, then as an assistant principal at Mission Hill Middle School in Santa Cruz. I feel fortunate to have such a talented, energetic office partner.

**Katie Kreeger, Special Education.** Our Special Education Department enthusiastically welcomes the addition of Katie. She brings her extensive experience working in the special education program at Robert Down Elementary School. Katie will be teaching the special day class in room 10. Her positive attitude will mesh perfectly with our special education professionals.

**Jenna Hofer, Core/ELD.** Jenna is the newest member of our Sixth Grade Core team of teachers. In addition to Core, she will also teach our English Language Development class. Jenna has earned a masters degree in education from UC Santa Cruz and has experience teaching history in grades six through eight. She comes to us with a reputation for extensive preparation and using creative lessons to keep her students engaged.

**Matthew Binder, Science.** Matt worked for 11 years in North Monterey County where he taught high school chemistry, biology, marine science, and earth science. The past two years he was a data assessment and technology coach developing standards-aligned pacing guides and assessment for grades 7-12. He also has middle school experience teaching marine biology to students in grades 6-8.

**Heather Lightfoot, Math.** Heather is beginning her official teaching career at PGMS, and we are lucky to have her. She received her BS in mathematics for teaching from UCLA and her MA in education from UC Santa Cruz. Heather worked extensively tutoring math students at Pacific Grove High School and in the AVID program at PGMS a few years back. She conducted her student teaching at Watsonville High School.

## Student Drop-Off and Pick-Up

Safety is the number one concern at the middle school. In the past, accidents have occurred because students dashed across the street to a waiting vehicle or as a shortcut home. **Please stress with your students the importance of following pedestrian traffic laws, such as crossing at crosswalks and crossing with the appropriate signal.** Parents who drop off or pick up students are encouraged to use Sinex or Hillcrest Avenues as meeting places, rather than Forest Avenue. The upper parking lot in front of the campus is for staff parking only and, due to the single lane approach, is not to be used as a "turn around drop-off" area. The new parking lot on the corner of Fountain and Sinex is also staff and visitor parking and is not to be used to pick up and drop off students. This lot is closed in this manner due to the hazardous situation through traffic presents for students. Also, DO NOT drive around the barricades on Fountain Avenue to drop off students near the gym. During the school day this is a pedestrian only area. Your cooperation with these requests is appreciated.

## IMMUNIZATIONS

Students will not be allowed to attend class until proof of the Tdap immunization booster has been presented to the school. A new state law requires proof of immunization in order for students to begin classes on the first day of school on August 10. Please bring in your immunization card as soon as possible to avoid delays on the 10th. The school office will be open from 8:00-4:00 beginning August 3.

## **ATTENDANCE**

WE ASK THAT ALL PARENTS/GUARDIANS CALL THE ATTENDANCE OFFICE EARLY EACH DAY YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT FROM SCHOOL OR IF THEY ARE GOING TO BE LATE TO SCHOOL. YOU CAN REACH THE ATTENDANCE OFFICE 24 HOURS A DAY BY CALLING 646-6568, EXT. 305. THERE IS A VOICE MAIL MESSAGE IF NO ONE IS IN THE OFFICE TO SPEAK TO YOU PERSONALLY. PLEASE MAKE A SERIOUS EFFORT TO CALL BEFORE 9:00AM. ALSO, REFER TO THE STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK FOR OUR POLICIES ON ATTENDANCE, TARDINESS AND HOMEWORK REQUESTS. WITH BOTH THE SCHOOL AND HOME WORKING TOGETHER WE WILL ALWAYS KNOW WHERE OUR CHILDREN ARE.

## **EARLY RELEASE THURSDAYS**

Don't forget that school is dismissed at 2:00 p.m. EVERY Thursday. Study hall, the library and the computer lab are not open on Thursdays due to faculty and staff meetings being held. You will need to make other after-school arrangements for your child on those days.

## **PICTURE DAY**

All students will have their pictures taken on Friday, September 2. A few days before, students will bring home envelopes containing the specific information. The pictures will be used in the yearbook and for identification cards. Parents can purchase pictures at this time. A make-up day has been scheduled on October 21 for any students who are absent.

## **STUDENT SUPPLIES**

The only items needed for the first few days of school are:

**Backpack**

**Binder with pocket subject dividers**

**Binder paper**

**Pens and Pencils**

After that, each teacher will tell their students what other supplies will be necessary for their class.

P.E. teachers will announce what day P.E. clothes are to be brought to school.

A more extensive list can be found on our web site on the Enrollment page.

## **BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT**

Please note that this year's Back to School Night is set for Thursday, September 8, at 7:00pm. It will begin in the Auditorium and then parents will follow their students' schedule for brief classes where they will meet the teachers and learn about their expectations and planned curricula for the year. Please make every effort to attend this important evening. Your involvement in your child's education is critical to his/her success in middle school, just as it was in elementary school.

## **COUNSELING PROGRAM**

We have an excellent school counselor, Janie Lawrence, on campus daily. She is available to help with academic, social, and personal issues.

A group of Hospice trained staff members are also available as Grief Busters. If a student is experiencing separation or loss of a friend, pet, or loved one, please contact Janie Lawrence for more information.

## PLEASE HELP US

Parents please do not call the school office to leave messages for your students, unless it is an absolute emergency, as it is a disruption to classes and interferes with learning. Please make every effort to have your daily plans settled the night before or in the morning before your student comes to school. **Have a plan in place for rainy days, minimum days, pick up locations, etc., and discuss them with your student ahead of time.** We appreciate your cooperation as we do not have the office personnel to handle the volume of calls that occur for sending messages.

Students who have forgotten items such as lunches, PE clothes, school work or instruments should check in the office to see if they have been brought in. We cannot send notes to students who have forgotten these types of things.

## STUDENT PLANNER AGENDAS

On the first day of school, students will receive a complimentary copy of our 2011-2012 Student Organizer. It contains a year-long calendar with plenty of space for writing down assignments and due dates. Students will also receive a copy of the Student/Parent Handbook. Teachers will review its contents with their classes during the first days of school. Parents are asked to review the handbook at home, and keep it in a safe place where it can be easily located for reference throughout the school year.

## PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE WEEK

The middle school sets aside one week each year for parent-teacher conferences.

**This year the conferences will be held the week of October 24-29 PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS. NO OTHER NOTICE WILL BE SENT OUT.**

Parents who would like to conference with their child's teachers need to call the school office on or after September 6<sup>th</sup>. We will maintain a schedule of conferences for the whole school. Afternoon and evening appointments are available. When a teacher's conference times are full, you will be referred to the teacher's voice mail so that you may leave a message to arrange a conference at another time that is mutually convenient.

**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THESE ARE MINIMUM DAYS AND STUDENTS WILL BE RELEASED FROM SCHOOL AT 12:11 EVERY DAY FOR THE ENTIRE WEEK.**

## TWO REMINDERS

- 1. Be sure to keep your PowerSchool user ID name and log-in in a special place next to your home computer. Make sure to keep it private and do not share this information with others. If you lost your PowerSchool information, you will need to come into the school office to retrieve it. We will not be able to provide that to you over the telephone.**
- 2. Make sure you read your Student/Parent Handbook so you are familiar with PGMS rules and procedures.**

## PARENTING A MIDDLE-SCHOOLER

Everyone knows there is no magic formula for parenting a middle-schooler. Each one is unique, with special gifts. There are, however, some general guidelines that can help to maximize success. A few are highlighted here.

**\*\* Stay involved in your child's life.**

Don't make the mistake of suddenly pulling out and telling them, "You're on your own, now. I expect you to be responsible, manage your time, etc." That level of maturity comes gradually, with a lot of monitoring on the part of the parents. Keep up on their homework. Call the teachers if you are hearing, "I don't have any homework. I did it all at school."

**\*\* Encourage your son or daughter to be involved in at least one or two activities at school. Attend their special events and performances with them. This sends the message that they are important and valued.**

**\*\* Be an advocate for your child if trouble develops, but don't over-defend them. If they've made a mistake, let them know that they need to own up to it, pay the consequence and get on with life.** Do this even if you don't totally agree with the way in which the situation was handled. Your children will learn a much better lesson than the one they learn when you try too hard to rescue them from all of life's difficult or uncomfortable moments.

If you have questions or concerns regarding developmental, social issues of middle schoolers or if you want information on parenting classes, please contact our counselor, Ms. Janie Lawrence.

## MAGAZINE DRIVE

Once again, our Student Council will sponsor a magazine drive as our major fund-raiser for the year. Last year, we made thousands of dollars that were used for student activities and assemblies. We are hoping to make this year's drive even more successful. Students are asked to request support only from their friends and family members. We will tell the students NOT to sell door-to-door.

We will have a magazine drive kick-off assembly on August 23 where students will get all of their materials and information. Prizes will be given for various sales contests.

A professional fund raising company coordinates this event for our school. Students are under no obligation to participate in the magazine sale. This year there will be only ONE school-wide collection day on September 13.

This is a good opportunity to buy holiday gifts, renew old favorites, etc. We appreciate your support of this fund-raiser!

## PTSA'S 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE FAMILY POTLUCK DINNER.

**This annual event is for all 6<sup>th</sup> graders and their families and is scheduled for Friday, September 16, at 6:30 in the middle school gym. Look for more information and details to follow from the PTSA.**

## BRAND NEW LOCKERS

### An important word about our brand

new hall lockers: Each student is assigned a locker to hold their personal belongings while at school. This is a privilege. The lockers are school property and are not to be defaced in any manner. **Stickers, double sided tape, and any other adhesives are not allowed.** Magnets are permissible. Graffiti of any kind will result in consequences and fines. We haven't had new lockers for more than 50 years. Let's take good care of these so they last a long time.

## CHALLENGE DAY

This year Challenge Day will be held on Wednesday, August 31, from 8:30am-3pm in the middle school gym. This special day is for the entire 7<sup>th</sup> grade class. They will participate in group activities and discussions about diversity, bullying, and character building. Permission slips will be sent home with students. Those who choose not to participate will follow a special schedule during that school day. For more information about that day here at the middle school, please call Janie Lawrence at 646-6568, ext. 304. For more information about the Challenge Day Program, visit [www.challengeday.org](http://www.challengeday.org).

## PACIFIC GROVE YOUTH CENTER

Check out the web site for the Youth Center. This is the place for students to go after school to play games, have snacks, do homework or just hang out until parents can pick them up. There is adult supervision at all times.

Here is the website:

<http://www.ci.pg.ca.us/recreation/youthcenter.htm>

## PG MIDDLE WEBSITE

The middle school uses their website to keep parents and students up to date on school events and activities. Use it to view the monthly calendar and check on the *Daily Bulletin*. Click *Breaking News* for urgent or newly released information. There are *Parent Resources* where parents can access various documents and forms. The *Library* page has information about our library. The *PTSA* also has a page with information about their activities and minutes from their meetings.

Check out [www.pgmiddle.org](http://www.pgmiddle.org).