

**PACIFIC GROVE
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

A California
Distinguished School

2001-2004, 2009-2012

Buck Roggeman
Principal

Sean Roach
Assistant Principal

Janie Lawrence
Counselor

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This is the only paper copy of the newsletter, all other newsletters will be sent via email.

The WAVE

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER

2014



Principal's Message

Being Positive Pays Off

By Buck Roggeman
Principal

It's pretty typical to see positive statements coming in your back to school letter, and lately I have learned that happiness can actually lead to success.

Shawn Achor who teaches a "happiness" class at Harvard has researched the effect of positivity on people and found that the advantages are numerous.

"Thanks to this cutting-edge science, we now know that happiness is the precursor to success, not merely the result," Achor writes in his book *The Happiness Advantage*. "And that happiness and optimism actually *fuel* performance and achievement..."

Achor is a prominent expert in the field of positive psychology, and I recommend taking 15 minutes to watch his Ted talk about the advantages of happiness available by following this link http://www.ted.com/talks/shawn_achor_the_happy_secret_to_better_work.

In the video, Achor mentions that his research has shown that aptitude is only a 25 percent predictor of success in the workplace. The other 75 percent is defined by our optimism, social support, and an ability to see stress as a chal-

lenge rather than a threat.

We can create the kind of school environment we want, and we will be encouraging everyone to make it positive. Our goal is to create an atmosphere that is upbeat, kind, and safe throughout school, in our classes and in our halls.

When our teachers, instructional aides, custodians, office clerks, food service staff, and administrators are happy and fulfilled in their work, we think it rubs off on our kids.

Students learn better when they feel better about themselves, and that is the primary benefit of building a culture based on kindness in our school to give our students the social support they need.

Our kids, however, are not the only ones who benefit from a campus that exudes joy.

Working in an upbeat environment increases teacher motivation and fulfillment in their jobs. Optimism encourages teachers to take risks and experiment with new teaching methods that can keep education fresh and inspirational for our students.

Our experienced staff of teachers will work daily to deliver a curriculum rooted in the rigorous Common Core State Standards and present it in an engaging manner that makes use of the technological tools at their disposal.

A positive environment creates a cycle where the adults and students on campus con-

tinue to influence each other in beneficial ways.

It makes intuitive sense that positive adults produce happy kids, and happy kids make teaching more fun, which produces more positive adults.

We realize that there will be challenges to face this year. There always are.

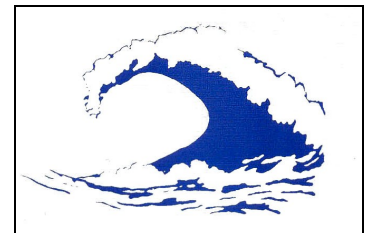
There will come a point when classes will not seem as exciting, when rain will fall (hopefully) and force us indoors for lunch, and when conflicts will arise between friends.

We will view adversity as challenges that build resilience in our students and our staff, and more often than not, we will improve as people and as a school by overcoming travails, both large and small.

Our hope is that all of our challenges will occur against the backdrop of a staff that loves working at Pacific Grove Middle School and students who love coming to school with each other.

A wave of enthusiasm is heading our way as sixth graders approach the middle school with wonder, seventh graders anticipate reconnecting with last year's friends, and eighth graders take their turn to lead the school.

We will ride that wave as far as it will take us.



NEW PGMS STAFF

It is with great pride that we welcome new staff members to the Middle School educational team.

Sean Roach – Mr. Roach is our new Assistant Principal. He is making the move from Monterey Peninsula Unified School District where he served for the previous three years as principal of Marina High School. During his tenure, the school experienced impressive growth in terms of their test scores (an increase of 31 points in their API) and more importantly, the school's culture improved with a decrease in discipline incidents by 40 percent. Mr. Roach is a graduate of Pacific Grove High School (and PGMS) and has already been working assiduously to familiarize himself with our campus so that he can be at his best when school starts.

Dennis Rosen – Mr. Rosen will be teaching ELA 7, History 7, Computer Video Bulletin, and

English Language Development. He is a talented professional who will be a second-year teacher this fall. Last year, Mr. Rosen taught American History and English Language Development for San Rafael City Schools at Terra Linda High School. His education includes a Bachelor of Arts degree from UCSB in Sociology with a minor in Education and a Master of Arts degree and credential in teaching

Kathy Wheeler – Ms. Wheeler is joining our staff as a resource teacher. She will be supporting the general education classroom for three periods a day and teaching a 7th grade learning center class. Ms. Wheeler comes to us with 19 years of impressive special education experience most recently working at Hans Christensen Middle School where she taught 7th and 8th grade students in a special day class as well as supporting them in inclusion settings. Her education includes a Bachelor of Arts degree in elementary education with a specialization in working with hearing impaired students grades K-12 and a Master of Arts degree in educational counseling.

AP Message By Sean Roach

Pacific Grove Middle School is such an amazing place to learn, and I am absolutely thrilled to be a part of it. In fact, I am a product of this very school!

I began my career in education as a Social Studies teacher. I taught for 12 years, six as a middle school teacher and six as a high school teacher. My last three years in education, I was the Principal of a High School, but I could not wait to get back to middle school! I am a resident of Pacific Grove, with three children attending PG schools this year.

I believe in a school in which students, teachers and staff treat one another with kindness and respect. I believe in a school where students are encouraged to do their best in the classroom, on the field, on the stage and in the community. I believe in a school that has a strong relationship with its community.

I look forward to working with your Breaker student to ensure that they receive a rigorous and challenging education in a safe and stimulating environment.



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 9:00 a.m.

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.

**Call before
9:00 a.m. if
your child will
be absent from
school**

**School Picture Day is
Fri. Aug. 29
Order forms will be
available in the front
office for students to
pick up.**

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 27-31.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS. NO OTHER NOTICE WILL BE SENT OUT.

Conference sessions are especially important for students who are at risk of failing classes. Parents of those students will have priority in scheduling. If the teacher has remaining timeslots, parents who would like to conference with their child's teachers need to call the school office beginning October 6. We maintain a schedule of conferences in 15 minute time blocks. There will be one evening session of conferences. If the teachers' conference schedules are full, you will be referred to their 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.**

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 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.

If you have forgotten something, check the office. Your parent may have dropped it off.

Have a plan in place for rainy days, minimum days, pick up locations, etc., and discuss them with your student ahead of time.



6th Grade Outdoor Science School

Sept. 23-26

All eligible 6th grade students are invited to attend the Outdoor Science School in Watsonville, scheduled for Tues. Sept. 23– Fri. Sept. 26. The trip will cost each student \$325 for four days.

To make a reservation for the trip, please have your student return the following no later than Mon. Sept. 1:

1. * Parent permission slip
2. * Medical Emergency permission slip
3. * Santa Cruz Outdoor School Forms
4. \$325 cash or check payable to PGUSD

No student will be denied participation in Outdoor school because of financial hardship. If you are in need of financial assistance, please contact Mr. Roggeman at broggeman@pgusd.org.

Packets were handed out at registration round-up, more packets are available in the office.



** All three items must be turned in at the same time. When all three documents have been submitted, you may then sign-up for the trip.*

Early Release Thursdays:

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



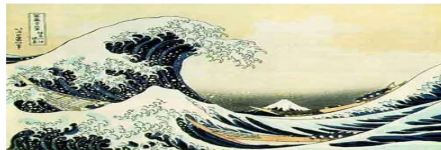
Pacific Grove Middle School

835 Forest Avenue
Pacific Grove, CA 93950

Phone: 831-646-6568

Fax: 831-646-6652

Website: www.pgmiddle.org



"We are Rising Like the Tide"

MISSION STATEMENT OF PACIFIC GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL

The mission of Pacific Grove Middle School is to provide a quality educational experience that teaches our students the skills and abilities they need to transition into high school with self-esteem, a capacity for critical thinking, a sense of responsibility, global awareness, and respect for self and others. Our staff is committed to setting and achieving high standards of academics and behavior while recognizing and responding to the individual talents and learning styles of our students.

VISION STATEMENT OF PACIFIC GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL

The staff of Pacific Grove Middle School pursues excellence in education by providing a progressive, standards-based program that challenges every student to be an independent thinker and responsible citizen and inspires a desire for lifelong learning.

Student Supply List

- Backpack
- Binder with pocket subject dividers
- Binder paper
- Pens and Pencil

Teachers will inform the students what else they need for their classes.

**BACK TO
SCHOOL
NIGHT**

**AUGUST 14
6:30 p.m.
Auditorium**

**School is
dismissed at
12:11 p.m.
on minimum
days.**

Parent Drop Off & Pick up

Morning Student Gathering Spot

The student drop off area in back of school is a loading and unloading zone only.

No parking is allowed in the cul-de-sacs.

Please utilize Sinex Avenue below PGMS and Hillcrest Avenue above PGMS for additional student drop off and pick up areas. This will help alleviate the congestion that sometimes occurs on Forest Ave. in front of our school. Thank you in advance for your help with this matter.

Thank you for your help with this.

For the 2014-15 school year, we would like all students to gather in the back of the school in the eating area before school. Regardless of where your child is dropped off, he or she should walk to the picnic table area and wait with their friends until the 8:25 a.m. opening bell sounds. If a student rides a bike to school, they should lock it inside the bike cage, and then head over to the picnic area. Students should not hang out near the bike cage or in front of the school before school. No students are allowed inside the school building before the 8:25 bell unless they are registered in a first period class (7:45-8:30) or going to the Library.