

PACIFIC GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL

A California
Distinguished School

2001-2004, 2009-2012

Sean Roach
Principal

Jason Tovani
Assistant Principal

Janie Lawrence
Counselor

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*This is the only
paper copy of
the newsletter,
all other news-
letters will be
sent via email.*

The WAVE

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER

2016



Principal's Message

Welcome

By Sean Roach
Principal

Dear Parents,

I would like to welcome you back for the 2016-2017 school year. I hope your summer has gone well and you are looking forward to the beginning of the new school year. I anticipate an exciting year as we collectively strive to foster a culture of learning, kindness and respect. I feel extremely fortunate to be working with such an exceptional group of students, families, and staff members. My time off with my wife and three daughters has been precious, and I return to Pacific Grove Middle School refreshed and anxious for the start of a brand new year!

As we prepare for another challenging and rewarding year of school, I believe it is important to convey our path, not only towards a successful school year, but strengthening the foundational skills necessary for our students to be successful well after they have left middle school. I am sure that most of you have learned that the Common Core State Standards have replaced the old state standards, and that these standards are much more aligned with the knowledge and skills colleges and businesses are looking for. As we learn more about these

goals, we understand that there are skills that are essential for students to be successful in every classroom. This year's focus is on assessment data to keep our fingers on the pulse of your students' achievement. Teacher teams in each content area will review student work and make adjustments to instruction based on the results. We are confident that this exercise will allow us to quickly instruction using data in real time.

"Failure is success if we learn from it." This is one of my absolute favorites! I can tell you from personal experiences, that some of the most impactful growth in my career has come on the heels of "failure". This life lesson teaches us to embrace risk, build resilience and learn from our mistakes; such as environments truly prepare students for transformative success in college and beyond. Our teachers and staff set high standards and are not afraid to tell students that they haven't met them. However, in the next breath, they give detailed suggestions on what students can do to improve, and provide them the time, space, and support they need to acquire these skills. At PGMS, we strive to build a culture where failure does not mean, "You Lose", it means "You can do better", we believe in you, here is some feedback, try again! Our hope is that not only will students

feel encouraged to persevere, but view failure as an opportunity to grow as a student and a human being.

As we draw closer to the beginning of the school year, I can already feel the excitement as sixth graders approach the middle school with curiosity, seventh graders look to reconnect with their pals, and eighth graders take their turn to lead the school. We look forward to partnering with you in the educational pursuits of your Breaker student, and instilling a lifelong passion for learning!



NEW PGMS STAFF

AP Message
By Jason Tovani

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

- **Alixandria Foster**- Alix will be teaching 6th and 7th grade Integrated Science. This will be Alix's 2nd year teaching science. Last year, Alix taught both 6th and 8th grade Integrated Science at Fairview Middle School in Gonzales, California. Alix holds a degree in Cognitive Science and Biology from UCSC, where she also earned her teaching credential.
- **Ethan Sullivan**- Ethan is re-joining our staff as a teacher. He will be teaching Integrated Science 8, Math 180 and Read 180. This will be Ethan's 9th year teaching primarily Science; most recently he did a fantastic job at PGMS last year teaching Math 8 and Integrated Math 1. Ethan holds a degree in liberal studies from Vanguard University of Southern California, and earned his teaching credential from Azusa Pacific.
- **Darcy Tuinenga** - Darcy will join our SPED department and teach in our Special Day Class. This is Darcy's 15th year in Special Education. She comes to us from Franklin McKinley School District in San Jose, California where she taught Life Skills to moderate to severely disabled students grades 4-6. Darcy earned a

bachelors degree from Stanislaus State University and holds two Special Education credentials..

* **Maragret Rice** - Margaret will join our staff as a SPED aid, working with Ms. Wheeler. Margaret worked in education as a Classroom Therapist in the Special Education department and most recently has been a wonderful substitute teacher here at PGMS. Margaret graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in Psychology as well as earning her Masters in Counseling from the University of Puget Sound.

* **Megan Munson**- Megan will join our staff as a SPED aid, working with Ms. Shumaker and Ms. Tulley. Megan did a wonderful job working at PGMS last year through Central Coast Kids and Families as a one to one aid for several of our students. Megan has a degree in Psychology from CSUMB.

• **Jared Masar** - Jared joins our staff as our new Chorus teacher! Jared will maintain his position working with the music programs of both Forest Grove and Robert Down. Ask any 6th grader this year and they will gush about him. We are very lucky to have him on board.

Greg Kelley- Greg is joining our staff as our new night time custodian, working with Rodrigo. Greg is a long time resident of Pacific Grove and his daughter, Andrea, is a 2016 graduate of PGHS!

The beginning of the school year has always been an exciting time for me. As a child I remember looking forward to re-connecting with friends, hearing stories of Summer, and finding out who my new teachers would be. I knew that the return to school would bring piles of homework, early morning alarms, and unknown challenges, but I still looked forward to it.

Even today, as Assistant Principal of PGMS, I am really excited about the start of school. I hope your students are, too! I have a different perspective now, and wonder how we might be able to maintain that excitement deeper into the school year. I think this can be done by making personal connections with each and every student, and working with them to ensure that PGMS offers ways in which they can connect in a meaningful way. Students are excited about school when it is meaningful to them.

The middle school years can be challenging for students and parents. The choices made here, both personal and academic, can have a profound effect on the type of individuals our students grow up to become. Maintaining a strong connection to school helps guide students through these challenging times, and makes that early morning alarm clock sound much more pleasant. I look forward to continuing a partnership with the PGMS community that creates and nurtures each student's connectedness to PGMS.



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.** If your student is not called in before 9:00 a.m., you will be called by our automated system. 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. 26
Order forms will be
handed out in your
Child's homeroom
class.**

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 24-28

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

All eligible 6th grade students are invited to attend the Outdoor Science School in Watsonville, scheduled for Tues. Sept. 27– Fri. September 30. The trip will cost each student \$345 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. * \$345 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. Roach at sroach@pgusd.org.

Packets will be handed out in mid August at the parent meeting, date and time to be determined.



** 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

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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 18
6:30 p.m.
Auditorium**

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

Parent Drop Off & Pick up

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 pull forward when dropping off your student 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.

Morning Student Gathering Spot

For the 2016-17 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.