

# 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

2017

## Principal's Message

### Welcome

*Sean Roach, Principal*

Dear Parents,

I would like to welcome you back for the 2017-2018 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. As you know, 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 using 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 adjust instruction using data in real time.

"Failure is success if we learn from it." This quote by Malcolm Forbes is one of my absolute favorites! I can tell you from personal experience, 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 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 sugges-

tions 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!



## What's Your *Thing*?

*Assistant Principal, Jason Tovani*

Everybody has a *thing*. Some of us have several things. Your thing is whatever it is you are most interested in and passionate about. It's what you hurry home to do, and what you get out of bed for on weekends. Often, it's a hobby or sport. It could be bowling, reading mystery novels, break dancing, ballet, coding, Pokemon, fashion, fishing, baking, running marathons, rock climbing, Legos, video games, recycling, theater... the list goes on. Maybe you have two or three things. Your *thing* could be pretty much *anything*.

Did you know you can make your *thing* a part of PGMS?

Lunch Clubs are an opportunity for students to explore their interests - and those of their peers - while here at PGMS. Thanks to support from the PGMS PTSA, students can create a lunch club about their "thing." Here is how:

1. Complete the "PGMS Club Request Form" found in the office.
2. Identify student leader(s), and the day, time and location of club meetings.
3. Find at least 8 PGMS students that are interested in joining the club. Write their names on your Club Request Form.
4. Find a faculty member that is willing to serve as your club's "Advisor," and have them sign your form.
5. Return the Form to the office and wait for approval.

I look forward to hearing the *things* you come up with!



## NEW PGMS STAFF

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

- **Desiree Pettas**— Dezi will join our PE department teaching PE grades 6-8. This will be Dezi's 19th year teaching PE at the middle and high school levels. Last year, Dezi taught PE at North Monterey County High School in Castroville, California. Dezi holds a BS in Physical Education with a teaching concentration from Cal Poly.

- **Greg Enterline** - Greg is joining our Science department teaching Science grades 7 and 8. This is Greg's 7th year teaching Science and STEM and he comes to us from Colton Middle School in Monterey, California. Greg hold a dregree in Biology with Marine Emphasis from Sonoma State University, and earned his teaching credential from Chapman University.

- **Cheri Diehl** - Cheri will rejoin our staff as a SPED aid, working with Ms. Wheeler and Ms. Gaul . Many of you may remember the wonderful job she did working with us at PGMS in the same role. Cheri spent the last couple of years in Palm Springs working at Corsini Elementary School as Paraprofessional. Welcome back Cheri!

- **Victor Diaz**- Victor will join our staff as a PE Aid, working with Ms. Pettas. Most recently, Victor has worked with the Salinas Union High School District as a paraprofessional in the Special Education Department. Victor graduated from the CSU Fresno with a degree in Criminology.





# 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. 25  
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 23-27**

**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 Wednesday, October 11 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**

## 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. 26– Fri. September 29. The trip will cost each student \$350.00 for four days.

To make a reservation for the trip, please have your student return the following no later than Mon. Sept. 4:

1. \* Parent permission slip
2. \* Medical Emergency permission slip
3. \* Santa Cruz Outdoor School Forms
4. \* \$350 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](mailto: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 is 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](http://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 17  
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 2017-18 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.