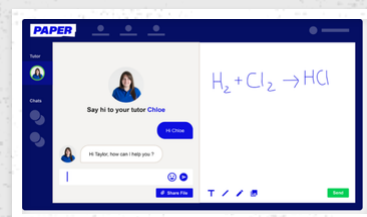


PACIFIC GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2021

PAPER: A POWERFUL RESOURCE FOR YOUR STUDENT!

By Sean Roach, Principal



As we gather steam on the school year, and focus on dusting off those in school habits, I thought I would introduce you to a powerful tool to assist you and your students this year. We knew as we planned for the instructional year, that collecting and acting on assessment data would be a key component in identifying where students are and what path we should take towards student success. Introducing PAPER, a 24/7 homework assistance resource. PAPER provides homework support, feedback on student essays, and general study support. Students log in through Clever (our school portal) and navigate to the PAPER tab, one click and they're in! Help will come in the form of a chat function (see below) and they utilize the Socratic method, they draw out what students already know and guide them to learn what's necessary for success. Students can draw questions, upload documents, or simply utilize the chat feature any time of day!

Student assistance is available in English, Spanish, Mandarin and French, with plans to add more languages in the future. This resource is free and available to students kindergarten through 12th grade district wide. At PGMS, we also offer a Homework Club. Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 3-4pm, our library is staffed by an AVID tutor who also utilizes the Socratic method to guide students to overcome their point of confusion. This is also a place to access PAPER if need be. There will be more information to come, but I invite you to log in with your student and take PAPER on a test drive.



LET'S COMMUNICATE!

By Mr. Tovani, Assistant Principal

Research on school bullying and harassment shows that school staff can play a powerful role in preventing bullying. That role can include building a positive school culture, adopting and supporting anti-bullying programs, enhancing counseling programs, and more. But more can be done, especially if parents get involved.

Parents are usually very aware of what is going on with their kids outside of school. Changes in friendships, mood swings, increased stress, and traumatic events are common among this age group, and are usually noticed by parents. It is easy to think these are “normal,” and to a degree, they are. But, these changes may be more (or less) significant when looked at in the context of what is happening at school. The opposite is true, too: knowing what is going on with a student at home helps school staff understand what they are seeing from a student at school.

Strong two-way communication between families and school is the best way to prevent bullying and harassment. The PGMS school day is 6.5 hours. A LOT goes on in that time (!), and the more we know about what is going on with our/your students, the more proactive we can be to keep them safe and free from added and unnecessary stress.

If you are aware of anything going on in your student’s life that might help us support them here at school, please let Mr. Tovani, Mr. Roach or Mrs. Lawrence know by calling the school at 646-6568.

FALL SPORTS PICTURES OCTOBER 6TH

If your student is out for a fall sport (Volleyball, Soccer or Cross Country), pictures will be taken **after school at 3:15 p.m. on October 6.**

FALL CONFERENCES OCTOBER 18-22

Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled for students who are not doing well in their classes. Mrs. Gibson will contact the parents to schedule a conference. The conferences are the week of Monday, **October 18- Friday, October 22.** The conference times are Monday and Wednesday- Friday, 1:00- 2:45 p.m., 15-minute conferences. The **ONLY evening** conference available is on Tuesday, October 19, 5:00 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

As soon as it's confirmed, we'll let you know if the conferences will be in-person or virtual.

Please note, all days are minimum days with an early release time of 12:11 p.m.

AUTUMN BREAK OCTOBER 11-14 - NO SCHOOL

ATTENDANCE NEWS

If your student(s) is going to be absent, please call 831-646-6568 ext. 305 by 9:00 a.m. or email Mrs. Robin Cochran, our Attendance Clerk, at rcochran@pgusd.org or Mrs. Melissa Gibson at mgibson@pgusd.org. If you email the teacher, please include us because the teacher can only mark the student Tardy or Absent, all other absences need to be entered by the office.



PICTURE RETAKE DAY 10/1/2021

Picture retake day is scheduled for Friday, October 1. Students can go into the gym during their lunchtime.

SPORTSMANSHIP NIGHT 9/7/2021

If you are playing a fall sport, there is a Sportsmanship meeting on Tuesday, September 7, at 6:30 p.m. This event will be held on the PGMS field and is for parents/guardians and athletes.



WELCOME BACK PGMS FAMILIES...

Hopefully the start of this year has been smooth for your families. There have been many emotions for all of us going back to school full time. We wanted to let you know about an upcoming opportunity in our community.

Susan Swick, MD, Executive Director, Ohana, Center for Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health at CHOMP, and a panel of Montage Health experts will discuss how to ease stress and manage the school year as we continue life during the pandemic.

<https://www.montagehealth.org/classes-events/search-results-detail/?eventId=7f06fdea-67f5-eb11-a840-000d3a611ea2>

If you or your student have questions or you think you might need some additional support, please reach out to your PGMS Counseling Team. We have counselors on site to provide individual counseling sessions to students facing challenges or struggling to adjust to school. We also offer referrals to community resources and parent consultations.

Janie Lawrence jlawrence@pgusd.org

Sonda Frudden sfrudden@pgusd.org

Zoe Roach zroach@pgusd.org

FOODS CLASS

The 8th grade Foods Class is looking for donations to make jam. If you have a fruit tree producing more than you can eat, we would love to turn it into jam. Bring your donations to room 13 before or after school, or the office.



LEADERSHIP CLASS

Leadership is excited to announce our Semester 1 ASB officers:

Sulu Gurung - President

Grace Bishop - Vice President

Addie Pereyo - Secretary

Lilah Del Castillo - Treasurer

Mackenzie Thomas - Activities Commissioner

PGMS AVID IS LOOKING FOR GUEST SPEAKERS



The PGMS AVID class is looking for local success stories that might shed some light on how to use school to get what you want out of life. Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is an elective class that helps students develop good study habits and find the motivation to do well in school so that they can make their college & career dreams come true. AVID guest speakers provide real-life examples of how it can be done!

What do guest speakers talk about?

- How hard work and perseverance led to success
- How you merged your passion and your work to build a lifestyle that works for you
- How college helped you become successful
- How you took advantage of opportunities to go above and beyond
- How you started your successful business
- What you studied in college and how it helped you
- What to do in High School to be ready for college & career
- How to decide "what you want to be when you grow up"

Past speakers have included a naval meteorologist, a current college student, an Olympic marathoner, a fashion designer... the list goes on!

If you or someone you know have ideas worth sharing, please contact Jason Tovani, Assistant Principal & AVID Coordinator at PGMS (jtovani@pgusd.org).



WALK WITH PRIDE 9/18/2021

Saturday, September 18, 2021 · 9 am to 12 noon · Lover's Point & PG Recreation Trail Walk to raise money for your classroom field trips, instructional materials and class projects. Ask family friends and neighbors to support each lap you take. Here's your necklace and first foot. You will get a foot for each lap after your first so you will remember how many you were able to complete.

Ways to donate:

- Online at www.supporttogpride.com/walk-with-pride
- Mail a check to: PG P.R.I.D.E., P.O. Box 419, Pacific Grove, CA 93950. Please make sure your teacher's name is on each check.

Thank you for supporting education in Pacific Grove. PG PRIDE Tax ID #77-0017360. PG PRIDE is a non-profit foundation which raises money to support ALL Pacific Grove Unified School District schools. *Pacific Grove Unified School District*

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SPIRIT DAYS

9/10 - Breaker Day, wear your blue and white

9/17 - Disney Day

9/24 - Breaker Day, wear your blue and white



PACIFIC GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL - PTSA

Please join our PTSA here at PGMS. Click the link below and sign up today!

<https://jointotem.com/ca/pacific-grove/pacific-grove-middle-school-ptsa>

Here are our 2021-2022 positions that need to be filled.

- Apprentice Secretary
- Apprentice Treasurer
- Vice President
- Parliamentarian
- Auditor