



Robert Down Principal's Update

March 21, 2024



Principal's Message

Hello Otter Families,

Another week is flying by! Let's back up to Friday, March 15 by visiting **STEM NIGHT** facilitated by 4th grade teacher Stefanie Pechan. You will be able to virtually visit by viewing some photos from the evening. Our students and families experienced amazing stations and demonstrations! Mrs. Pechan prepared the following narrative relevant to the origin of her STEM Club:

STEM Club was founded in 2010 by Mrs. Pechan. It started with a small group of science-enthusiased students meeting at lunchtime to perform science experiments and explore other areas of STEM.

After a while, this group decided they would like to teach others what they had been learning and the first school-wide STEM rotations were held. Once per month, the STEM Club students would put on their lab coats and lead the rest of the RHD students through various stations during lunchtime (one day was for grades K-2 and another day for grades 3-5). The STEM Club even led a

STEM PD for both RHD and FG Elementary school teachers. The program expanded with more students joining and the idea for hosting a family science night was born.

The STEM Club students, under Mrs. Pechan's guidance, plan and organize the stations to have at the family night. They learn how to plan to have enough materials for the entire student population, work within a budget, write and practice their talking points for presentations, create ways to advertise the event (flyers and signs), and continue to share their love of learning with others. In the past year, the STEM Club has teamed up with the PTA to add a fundraising element in the form of a food truck and silent auction.

Fast forward 14 years later and the program is still going strong. The annual family STEM Night takes place in the spring. Interested 4th and 5th graders should look for the bulletin announcement with the sign-up information in the fall (or go see Mrs. Pechan).

Robert Down held a successful Secure Campus Drill this past Monday. Drills are important to hold regularly with reminders retrieved from our BIG FIVE Safety packets. Students were cooperative, and due to the type of drill, were able to continue learning without disruption.

Tuesday was a big day! Superintendent Adamson made time for a Site Visit to RHD and enjoyed a tour of several classes. We mostly visited our primary grades, received "sparkles" from Mrs. Perkins, made "change" with 2nd graders during their money unit, and watched energetic TK students do some balancing moves! Next visitation will include our upper grades.

Our Student Advisory Group of 4th and 5th grade students met with District Curriculum Director Buck Roggeman in our lovely garden to share their views about RHD. They shared wish lists, proposed improvements, and what works well! Good discussion over a pizza lunch!

Our second graders performed a delightful musical program for families Monday evening as well as Tuesday morning for our students entitled *Feathers, Scales, and Furry Tails*. So many memorized songs paired with lots of energy :) Festive and fun!

Our generous group of PTA volunteers met Tuesday evening to discuss the many upcoming RHD events. Topics included safety, Open House, 5th grade activities...the list goes on. This group is very much appreciated by our staff and families for enriching our students' lives. Stay tuned for their newsletter and get ready for lots of action.

On Wednesday, I dined with a dozen RHD Otters in the beautiful school garden complete with juicy popsicles! These students were the lucky winners of the Caught Being Good Lunch Club, Garden Docent Ms. Heidi was present! She showed us the thriving vegetables and the "Quiet Room" she created with comfy seating and lots of books.

Staff member Alex Jenner deserves much credit, along with Michelle Ford for making the Spelling Bee happen Wednesday night! School Board Trustee Carolyn Swanson, PGPD Resource Officer

Andrea Hill, and former PGUSD Preschool Teacher Jennifer Ross graciously accepted the roles being the judges! Our 22 spellers are to be congratulated for participating and our winners are: Sarah Moss, Arina Baigrie, Charlie Watson, and Gabriel Hemmesch.
Well done!

Here is a parking reminder to parents and families dropping off and picking up their children. Our drop off locations are on Pine and Spruce. Please, after dropping off your students, leave your spot in a timely manner to allow other parents to drop off. It does get congested in the mornings and the lack of parking spots might encourage late entry to school. Thank you!

Thank you all for a wonderful, busy week!

Mary Riedel



RHD Upcoming Events

March 24 - RHD Drama Club Play, Ottertorium, 2 PM and 5 PM

March 27 - 5th Grade Career Day Parent Info Meeting, 6:00 PM

April 4 - PGUSD Board Meeting, 6:30 PM

April 5 - Minimum Day, all students dismissed at 12:10 PM

April 8-12 - Spring Break!



Office Reminders...

1) Please have your child to school on time. Gates open at 8:30 AM. Warning bell rings at 8:40 AM. **Final bell rings and instruction begins at 8:45 AM.** When a student is tardy it is disruptive to the office and classroom. In addition, students miss important information and announcements from their teacher first thing in the morning.

2) Did you know that you can report your child's absence with your ParentVUE app? Simply log into your ParentVUE account to send the office a message about why your child is absent.

*** Ways to report a student absent ***

a) ParentVUE app

b) 24 Hour Absence Line (831) 646-6663

c) Email Annie Deis at adeis@pgusd.org

3) Please make sure to relay afterschool plans with your child **PRIOR** to the school day. The office and teachers are getting phone calls and emails from parents daily about what their child should do after school. This is disruptive.



Volunteer & Chaperone Clearance

If you plan on being a **VOLUNTEER** on campus or a **CHAPERONE** for a field trip, please be sure you are fingerprint cleared with our district. To make an appointment at the District Office please contact Bree Nehring by calling 607-8892 or emailing bnehring@pgusd.org

Before coming to campus to volunteer, please check with your child's teacher to schedule a time that works best for them.



Robert Down Birthday Books

This notice is to tell you about our **voluntary** program designed to build the RHD library and foster your child's love of reading.

Here is how it works: To join the Robert H. Down Birthday Book Club fill out the information below (scroll way down to the bottom of this message to print the Birthday Book forms) and deposit it in the Drop Box at school along with a check for \$20.00 (please make the check payable to the P.G.U.S.D. and write R.H.D. Birthday Book on the memo line).

When your child's birthday month comes around Ms. Scanlon will present a new book in honor of your child's birthday. Your child will be the first one to check out and read the book that has been

donated to the library to celebrate their birthday. A bookplate with your child's name will be affixed to the inside cover for all future readers to appreciate.



Birthday Book Club.pdf

Download

280.3 KB

Flyers



RHD students logged 89,183 minutes of reading in two weeks!!

Our school raised \$9,294: THANK YOU for your generous donations and encouraging your children to read!

Top 3 readers: TK-2nd grade:

1. Lane Moulton: 1,720 minutes read
2. Arthur Ulmer: 1,050 minutes read
3. Julian Bogan: 1,028 minutes read

Top class with the most minutes read, TK-2nd grade:

Mrs. Gilmore's class:
8,258 minutes!

Top class with the most minutes read, 3rd-5th grade:

Mrs. Hiserman's class:
30,493 minutes!

Top 3 readers: 3rd-5th grade:

1. Tina Li: 2,537 minutes read
2. Levi Rutt: 2,514 minutes read
3. Alex Chea: 2,353 minutes read

Our top readers will each get a Gift Certificate to Bookworks!

Mrs. Gilmore and Mrs. Hiserman's classes will get a treat from the PTA!

Please contact Heather Lazare at heatherlazare@gmail.com if you have any questions.

PGUSD neither endorses nor sponsors the organization or activity represented in this document.

615 Sunset Drive Pacific
Grove High School

**Done with taxes? Have
things to shred? Come to
PG high school for free
shredding event (donations
accepted). Sponsored by the
Interact Club of PG high
school**

Where: PG high school parking lot

Shredder: Professional shredding
by The Shredding Source Solutions
of Salinas

We accept cash or checks.

The Interact Club is part of Pacific
Grove Rotary which is a 501.c
charitable organization. All donations
are tax deductible. Please make
checks out to Pacific Grove Rotary.

**April 20, 2024
11am – 3pm**

Registration
Opens Feb 1st

The WAVE Program

A Fun-Filled, 2-Week Summer Experience for
ALL rising 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th Graders

July 8-18 @ PGHS
Mon-Thur • 9am to 4pm

SUMMER 2024

Culinary | Basketball | Boxing | Dance
Baseball | Softball | Soccer | Lacrosse
Backyard Games | Swim Lessons
Tennis Wrestling | Water Polo
Track & Field | Volleyball

Join Us!
THIS SUMMER

MAKE NEW FRIENDS &
GREAT MEMORIES THIS SUMMER!

Eligibility Requirements:

Must be entering 4th, 5th, 6th
or 7th Grade in Fall 2024
AND

Attend a PGUSD School
or Live in PGUSD boundaries

REGISTER ONLINE

www.thewaveprogram.org

Registration includes \$125 donation
per family. Scholarships Available!

FOR MORE INFO: (408) 960-5194

SIGN UP FOR THE WAVE PROGRAM HERE!

**2023
2024**

**ORDER
YOUR
YEARBOOK
ONLINE
NOW!**

**EASY ORDERING WITH YOUR
MOBILE DEVICE.
SCAN QR CODE WITH CAMERA APP**

**ROBERT H. DOWN
ELEMENTARY**

**Purchase Now!!!
Perfect bound book
\$30.00
Hard cover book
\$35.00**

2023-24 Yearbook - Buy one today!

Order Now!!! Sales end May 6th, 2024

Ad Cost Pricing

Full Page: \$100, 1/2 Page: \$50, 1/4 Page \$25, 1/8 Page \$15



SCAN WITH PHONE

Yearbooks provided by


Don't wait to get your yearbook, this is *pre-sale only*.
Limited quantity available

1. <https://plicbooks.com/go/KYRV59>

Buy Now!
Debit/Credit

RC PREMIERSTUDIOS OF CALIFORNIA www.premierstudiosca.com • 559-274-9231

BUY A YEARBOOK HERE!




SCAN HERE


A PARTNERSHIP IN
EXCELLENCE

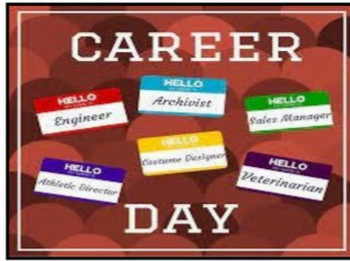
TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY

Please provide feedback for PGUSD schools by filling out this 10-minute survey. Your ideas will contribute to our plan for the next three years. Click on the link below, or scan the QR code.

[PGUSD Family Survey](#)

 PLEASE COMPLETE BY MARCH 25TH, 2024





PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Please join us for our annual 5th-grade Career Day. We seek volunteer speakers to share their professions with our 5th grade students. You can make a video or speak in person.

INFORMATIONAL EVENT FOR PARENT VOLUNTEERS:

Wednesday, March 27

6:00-6:30 PM online link to join the meeting:

Career Day Parent Volunteer Information Meeting

Wednesday, March 27 · 6:00 – 6:30pm

Time zone: America/Los_Angeles

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/tcj-pmno-zex>

Or dial: (US) +1 530-727-5491 PIN: 656 536 165#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/tcj-pmno-zex?pin=9171576667072>

FIFTH-GRADE CAREER DAY

April 26, 2024

10:30 AM-12:00 PM

Robert Down Elementary Auditorium

PACIFIC GROVE RECREATION

YOUTH TRACK AND FIELD 2024



Season Dates: April 2 - May 30
Practices Tuesdays & Thursdays 6:30-7:30 PM
at Pacific Grove High School Track
Track Meets on Saturdays

Registration opens March 4 at 12:00 PM

PG Resident \$99 (Ages 5-14)

Non-Resident \$108 (Ages 5-14)

Register online at www.cityofpg.org/recreation

Call 831-648-3134 for more information

PACIFIC GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NEITHER ENDORSES NOR SPONSORS
THE ORGANIZATION OR ACTIVITY REPRESENTED IN THIS DOCUMENT

PACIFIC CHESS ACADEMY

2024 SPRING

This class is designed for young players and offers easy-to-follow instructions, individual recommendations and tournament games.

Youth will learn how to think strategically, overcome obstacles, practice good sportsmanship and make new friends.

All necessary equipment will be provided.

AFFILIATE OF US CHESS FEDERATION A6036232

PACIFIC GROVE
COMMUNITY CENTER

THURSDAYS 2:30-3:30 PM

K-5TH GRADE

8 WEEK SESSIONS

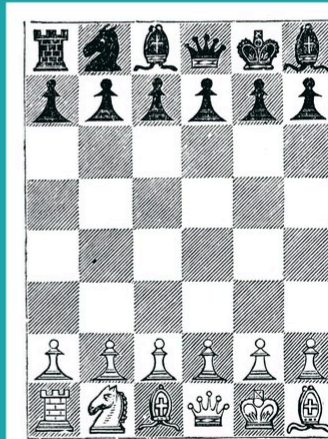
FEE: \$180.00

SESSION 1: JAN 11-MAR 7

SESSION 2: MAR 14-MAY 9

NO CLASS APR 11

REGISTER NOW



PACIFIC GROVE RECREATION | 831.648.3134
WWW.CITYOFPG.ORG/RECREATION

PACIFIC GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NEITHER ENDORSES NOR SPONSORS
THE ORGANIZATION OR ACTIVITY REPRESENTED IN THIS DOCUMENT.

CELEBRATING 41 YEARS OF GIVING!

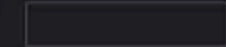


**Sunday,
April 21, 4-7pm**

The Inn at Spanish Bay Ballrooms,
Pebble Beach

**Come join us for an
evening of Great Food,
Wine, Brew and a
Great Silent Auction!**

Raising funds
for Pacific
Grove
Classrooms



Please Join Us

**Purchase your tickets or
make a donation online now!**

Go to: supportpgpride.com today!

\$85 in advance

\$100 beginning April 15

(over 21 years of age only, please)



Email info@supportpgpride.com for sponsorship opportunities,
silent auction donations, food & beverage vendor opportunities.
Mail Donations to: P.O. Box 419, Pacific Grove, CA 93950

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Anyone's Yoga Presents:

**Lunchtime Yoga / Stretching / Relaxation
w/ Mrs. Tobin**



Come and learn to stretch and relax yoga style!

Where: Room C-3 (music room)

When: Lunchtime Recess on Wednesdays

Start Date: January 17, 2024

Bring your own mat if you like, or mats and a carpeted floor are provided.

Anyone can do this! First 15 students to arrive get a spot!

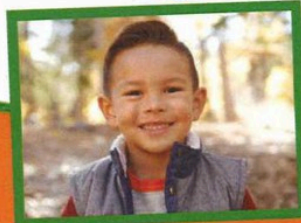


I Am Loved!

IT'S FUN!



Everyone Has Value!



Helps Me Do Right!

Thursday

-- only on full days of school --

~~September 14~~ 2023- May 16th 2024

Nov. 9

Time: 2:00 PM- 3:30 PM

Location: Robert Down Elementary School -E-2

Sponsor: CEF NorCal Central Coast

Contact: Janice Hare 831-601-2974

To Register: Pick up a registration form in the office and bring to the club meeting.

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JOIN THE GOOD NEWS CLUB®

IT'S
FREE!

GOOD NEWS CLUB® (GNC™)

is an exciting, fun-filled weekly club for kids in which the Bible is clearly taught with songs, stories, games...

WHO TEACHES THE CLUB?

GNC teachers are specially trained Christians concerned for the well-being of your child. All club workers are screened as required by Child Evangelism Fellowship® Child Protection Policy to ensure your child's safety.



CEF
CHILD EVANGELISM
FELLOWSHIP®
Reaching children worldwide

The United States Constitution requires schools to respect the right of all external organizations to distribute flyers to students at school if the school permits any such organization to distribute flyers. Accordingly, the school cannot discriminate among groups wishing to distribute flyers at school and does not endorse the content of any flyer distributed at school. The school encourages parents to assist their children in making choices appropriate for them.

This is not an activity of the school or the school district.

V2.0

- 2024 - MARCH

This Month we are Testing out Yogurt Parfaits & Fruit Smoothies for Breakfast!

FRIDAY

1	Domino's Cheese or Pepperoni Deli Sandwich Side Salad Fresh Fruit
8	Domino's Cheese or Pepperoni Deli Sandwich Side Salad Fresh Fruit
15	Domino's Cheese or Pepperoni Deli Sandwich Side Salad Fresh Fruit
22	Domino's Cheese or Pepperoni Deli Sandwich Side Salad Fresh Fruit
29	Domino's Cheese or Pepperoni Deli Sandwich Side Salad Fresh Fruit

MONDAY

4	Mozzarella Stuffed Breadsticks w/ Marinara Chicken Nuggets & French Fries Corn Fresh Fruit
11	Crispy Chicken Sandwich Cheese Lasagna Baby Carrots Fresh Fruit
18	Mozzarella Stuffed Breadsticks w/ Marinara Chicken Nuggets & French Fries Corn Fresh Fruit
25	Crispy Chicken Sandwich Cheese Lasagna Baby Carrots Fresh Fruit

TUESDAY

5	Corndog Macaroni & Cheese Carrot Fresh Fruit
12	Cheese Quesadilla Crunchy Beef Tacos Refried Beans Fresh Fruit
19	Hot Dog Macaroni & Cheese Carrot Fresh Fruit
26	Cheese Quesadilla Crunchy Beef Tacos Refried Beans Fresh Fruit

WEDNESDAY

6	Orange Chicken & Rice Grilled Cheese Broccoli Fresh Fruit
13	Orange Chicken & Rice Homemade Chicken & Cheese Taqitos Chef Choice Vegetarian Option Mixed Vegetable Roast Fresh Fruit
20	Orange Chicken & Rice Grilled Cheese Broccoli Fresh Fruit
27	Orange Chicken & Rice Homemade Chicken & Cheese Taqitos Chef Choice Vegetarian Option Mixed Vegetable Roast Fresh Fruit

THURSDAY

7	Cheeseburger/ Hamburger Homemade Bean & Cheese Burrito Corn Fresh Fruit
14	Cheeseburger/ Hamburger Bean & Cheese Nacho Tater Tots or Corn Fresh Fruit
21	Cheeseburger/ Hamburger Homemade Bean & Cheese Burrito Corn Fresh Fruit
28	Cheeseburger/ Hamburger Bean & Cheese Nacho Tater Tots or Corn Fresh Fruit

Pacific Grove Unified School District Elementary Menu BREAKFAST

Cereal Variety Offered Daily

Monday: Mini Maple Pancakes

Tuesday: Cinnamon Bun

Wednesday: Bagel

Thursday: Donut Variety

Friday: Concha

Served with Whole Fruits or 100 %
Fruit Juice

All Meals FREE for ALL Students

Gluten Free Alternative Breads &
Items Available at Each Site as Needed

© 2023 Simply Good Food, LLC

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. Menu is subject to change. A variety of milk is offered each day.

[CLICK HERE to ORDER RHD Spirit Wear](#)

Otterly Adorable



















Please Read: Allergy Alert Letter



Allergy Alert Letter August 2023.docx.pdf

Download

520.1 KB

Hello Robert Down Families,

This year, we have some schoolmates in grades 2 through 5 with life-threatening allergies to eggs, tree nuts, peanuts, and milk requiring Epi-Pen treatment if exposed to eggs and foods containing tree nuts, peanuts, and milk. To maintain the highest level of safety, all of the 2nd grade classrooms will be compulsory egg, tree nut, and peanut-free classrooms. We ask that all Second Grade classroom families not send foods to school with their child which contain tree nuts, peanuts, and eggs.

Mr. Keller will be discussing with all grade levels the importance of being safe at the lunch tables and not playing with milk cartons by purposely pouring liquids onto trays, onto the table tops or ground, and not stomping on cartons to hear them "pop". He will also share with students the importance of using hand wipes or washing hands after eating any food allergy products to keep playground equipment safe for all students.

The best way to determine if foods are allergy-free snacks is to read the label since most brands have a warning statement or allergen list. Be aware of phrases like this:

- May Contain Peanuts
- Processed on shared equipment with Peanuts
- Manufactured in a facility that also processes Peanuts
- Contains Peanut or Peanut Ingredients



In addition, we will encourage students to care for their food properly at school by not sharing food with others, not throwing food, and not carelessly spilling food onto others in order to eliminate food allergy exposure and cross contamination in eating areas shared by multiple grade levels.

The following resource link and attachment can assist you in teaching your children how to support friends with allergies and how to keep them safe.

<https://community.kidswithfoodallergies.org/blog/8-ways-to-teach-children-about-food-allergies>

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Thank you very much,

Katrina

Katrina Powley, RN, BSN, CSN
District School Nurse
Pacific Grove Unified School District
kpowley@pgusd.org
Google Voice: (831) 275-5396

How To **AVOID** a Food Allergy **REACTION**

The only way to **AVOID** having an allergic reaction is to **AVOID THE FOOD YOU'RE ALLERGIC TO**. That's why it's important to follow these rules.



Wash your hands
before eating.



Don't share
food or drinks.



Read labels twice or
ask an adult. **NO**
LABEL? DON'T EAT IT!



Always tell whoever
is making your food
about your food allergy.



Don't take chances.
If you don't know what's
in your food, **DON'T EAT IT.**



Food Allergy MYTHS



MYTH: Eating a little bit of a food you're allergic to won't hurt.

FACT: For someone with a food allergy, **even a small amount** of a food allergen can cause a **serious allergic reaction**.

MYTH: Peanut allergy is the most dangerous food allergy.

FACT: Any food can cause an allergic reaction. **No single food allergy is more dangerous than another.**

MYTH: Food allergies are not serious.

FACT: Food allergies are **VERY serious**. People with food allergies must be careful about what they eat **all the time** and **always be prepared for an allergic reaction**.

MYTH: A food allergy always develops in childhood, then you're stuck with it for life.

FACT: A person can develop a food allergy **anytime**, even as an adult. **Kids may outgrow a food allergy**, especially allergies to milk, egg, soy, and wheat.



SmartSocial



AI Parent Training For Students

The SmartSocial Parent, Teacher & Counselor forum will teach you the hidden safety features of TikTok, Snapchat, Instagram, Fortnite, Netflix, YouTube & More

smartsocial.com

Making Screen Time Fun

while reducing the negative impact

**Live Virtual
Event
Taught by
Students &
Experts**



Tools for the Journey

Creating a World of Kind, Connected Human Beings



Breathing

I calm myself and check-in.

Quiet/Safe Place

I remember my quiet/safe place.



Listening

I listen with my ears, eyes, and heart.

Empathy

I care for myself. I care for others.



Personal Space

I have a right to my space and so do you.

Using Our Words

*I use the "right" words, in the "right" way,
at the "right" time, for the "right" reason.*



Garbage Can

I let the little things go.

Taking Time

I take time-in and time-away.



Please & Thank You

I treat others with kindness and appreciation.

Apology & Forgiveness

I admit my mistakes and work to forgive yours.



Patience

I am strong enough to wait.

Courage

I have the courage to do the "right" thing.



Practices of a Peaceful Warrior



TOOLBOX
BY DOVETAIL LEARNING

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www.dovetaillearning.org



ROBERT H. DOWN
Elementary School

Robert Down Elementary School

Website: <https://robertdown.pgusd.org/>

Location: [485 Pine Avenue, Pacific Grove, CA, USA](#)

Phone: (831) 646-6540



Robert Down Elementary School

is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

Created with  **smore**

Communicate quickly and effectively with interactive newsletters.

Smore empowers educators to connect with their community, streamline school communications, and increase engagement.

[Create a newsletter](#)

