

ROBERT DOWN PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

August 25, 2023

Principal's Message

Dear RHD Families -

I was feeling a little under the weather the last two days and was off campus, so my apologies for not sending this update yesterday.

Thank you to the dedicated few parents that attended this month's Cocoa with Keller that focused on the Big Five Safety Protocol. These "Ask the Principal" nights occur to provide moments to answer questions and help provide feedback for our yearly goals. If you were unable to make it and would like to watch the presentation, click here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cShPgBm7xIF-WsDIUG6zznIOwUo7ymk2/view?usp=sharing

I hope I'm feeling better in order to attend tomorrow night's Back to School Night at CSUMB. The Monterey Bay Union will be hosting the Colorado Springs Switchbacks. Clink on the link below the flier to order your tickets today!

Our wonderful counselor and behavior health therapist will be hosting Coffee with the Counselors this Tuesday, August 29th, from 9:00-10:00 AM on campus. Check in to the office that morning if you are interested in attending. (See the flier below)

Our Drama Club is back for 2nd-5th graders. See the message below.

From the PGUSD Nurse

Please contact our health clerk if your child has a severe allergy and has emergency medication to manage them. Cindy Waznis / cwaznis@pgusd.org

Parents are needed to help organize the following events:

- Bike Rodeo (September 23rd- 1 parent signed up)
- Butterfly Bazaar all PGUSD PTAs help with this event (October7th)
- Halloween Party (Late October Friday TBD 4 parents signed up)
- Read a Thon/Book Week (February)
- Book Swap (March 7th Get Donated Books/Students bring one get one)
- Book Night (March 8th Contact Guest Readers, like me!)
- Art and STEM Night/STEAM Night (April TBD)
- Diversity Night (TBD)
- Bingo Night (TBD)
- Movie Night (TBD)
- 5th Grade Campout (May, TBD)
- 5th Grade Sunset (May, TBD)

Reminders:

- Gates will open at 8:30 AM. School begins on at 8:45 AM
- Gate A (Spruce between 12th and 13th streets), Gate C (Near TK building formerly the Co-Op), and Gate D (On Pine near ramp and the little schoolhouse library) will be open.
- Gate B (Spruce & Fountain) WILL NOT be open and no personnel will open it for students.
 Please walk around to Gate C.
- <u>Drop off zones should not be used as parking spaces and will be marked with orange cones.</u>
 <u>Students should be able to get out of the vehicle on their own on the sidewalk side of the street:</u> On Pine Ave. next to our new TK building and in back of campus near Gate A Please park away from campus and get your steps in if you want to walk your student to a gate. We will be asking PGPD to monitor the area for safety.
- Please park away from campus if you would like to drive your student to school and walk them to a gate.
- Release time: On Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays RHD releases TK and Kindergarten students are released at 2:10 and 1st-5th grade students at 3:10 PM
- Release Time Thursdays: All students are released at 1:55 PM for staff collaboration time.
- If you are in need of the Before and After School Recreation Program (BASRP), please reach out to Darryl Smith at darryl.smith@pgusd.org or go to our website
 https://robertdown.pgusd.org/Parents/B-A-S-R-P-/index.html
- Please remind students that ride bikes or scooters to walk them around campus and outside on the sidewalk to remain safe - and especially wear a helmet.
- Cocoa With Keller (Ask the Principal Nights) will occur via Zoom on the fourth Tuesday each month: Sept. 26, Oct. 24th, *Nov. 21st, Jan. 23rd, Feb. 27th, March 26th, April 23rd, May 21st. (*Principal being selfish on his birthday in November)

In Otter Ohana,

Sean Keller, RHD Principal Google Voice (831) 275-0083 skeller@pgusd.org



RHD Upcoming Events

August 26 - Monterey Bay Futbol Club (Union), Back to School Night 7PM (details below)

August 29 - Coffee Meet & Greet with the Counselor, RHD Loft, 9:00-10:00 AM (flyer below)

September 4 — Labor Day Holiday, No School

September 6 - Toolbox Parent Event, RHD Library, 6:00-7:00 PM

September 7-PGUSD Board Meeting, 6:30 PM

September 16 - PG PRIDE, Walk with Pride Event, Lovers Point

9:00 AM-12:00 PM

September 19 - PTA Meeting via zoom, link to follow

September 20 —School Picture Day

September 23 - PTA Bike Rodeo, RHD Playground, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM



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.

Screen Time Events From SmartSocial

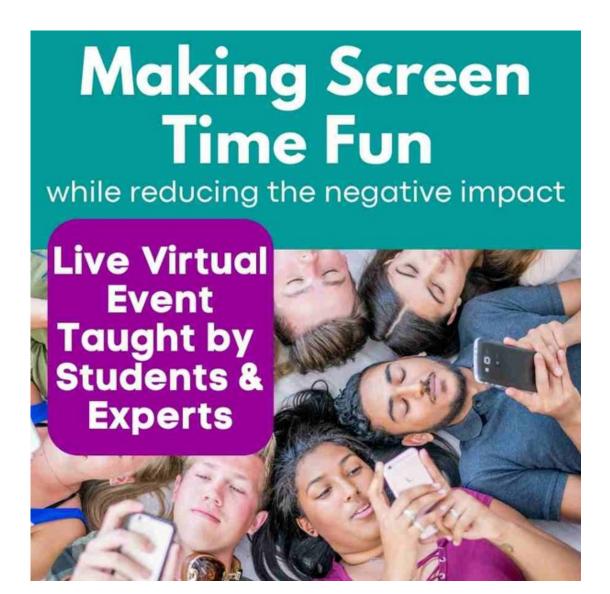
Next events:

- Making Screen Time Fun While Reducing the Negative Impact VIP Event, August 30th & 31st
- Live Parent & Student ChatGPT & Google Bard Al Training September 7th
- Avoiding Strangers, Drugs, and Dangerous Situations Online VIP Event, September 26th &
 27th
- Navigating Al Tools To Prep A Student For Their Future College & Career VIP Event, October 24th & 25th
- Using Screen Time to Support Positive Student Behaviors on Campus and At Home VIP Event,
 November 14th & 15th

Virtual Parent Night Event

In today's digital world, screens are an integral part of our lives, offering boundless opportunities for learning and leisure. But how can we ensure that screen time is a source of joy and not a thief of it?

This event is designed for parents, students, and educators. We will be sharing insights, tips, and tools to make the most of screen time while reducing its potential downsides.





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

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

Please Read: Allergy Alert Letter

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 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.

munity.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

Allergy Alert Letter August 2023.docx.pdf

Download

520.1 KB

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.



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.



PTA News

The Monterey Bay Futbol Club (MBFC), THIS SATURDAY! Our local pro soccer team, is hosting a Back-to-School Night at their 7pm game on Aug 26, against the Colorado Springs Switchbacks. Last day to purchase tickets is Fri. 8/25. Click here to purchase:
 https://seatgeek.com/colorado-springs-switchbacks-fc-at-monterey-bay-f-c-tickets/united-soccer-league/2023-08-26-7-pm/5911503?sgo_ac=ROBERTDOWN

Tickets: \$20 (discounted rate)

Time: 7-9pm

Place: Cardinale Stadium at CSUMB
 PG Pride Walk with Pride - 9/16

- Bike Rodeo 9/23
- PTA Executive Positions are still available and can be shared to help alleviate time commitments. Please reach out to RHD PTA President, Soccoro Papadakis, at socorrovaldez33@gmail.com to find out how you can help.
- Check out the RHD website for lots of information under the "About Us" and "Parents" menus: https://robertdown.pgusd.org/index.html

Drama Club

Dear Robert Down Families,

We are very excited to announce that Drama Club for Grades 2-5 will begin this fall. The club will meet after school on certain Mondays and Tuesdays from 3:15-4:30pm. For those that are interested in joining please send an email to robertdowndrama@gmail.com. There is a capacity limit, so enrollment will be based on a first come first serve basis. Since this club is fully voluntary, we will ask all parents to volunteer at some point during the program. Thank you,

Shawn Rozsa (Club Director)

A Message from our Garden Coordinator

Dear Robert Down Families,

I'm happy to let you know that I will help refurbish your school's garden as the newly hired Garden Coordinator. My past experience includes managing the public education program at the Monterey Regional Waste Management District, which included working with school gardens and environmental education. I'm also involved with the PG Community Garden.

The RHD garden is a diamond in the rough...a beautifully designed space for children that is just waiting to be cleaned up and replanted! We will revive this wonderful resource to make it a treasured space once again, inviting our students to learn in a natural, fun environment. My hope is that we can do a deep clean and new planting in the next few weeks, to make the garden ready for student visits very soon, including classroom time, garden lunch, and an after-school Garden Club.

Please let me know if you would like to volunteer, as your time permits, to make the magic happen, no gardening experience necessary. Our kids and teachers will be so thankful for your gift of time and hands-on help. You can contact me at hfeldman@pgusd.org if you are available to join me in the garden.

Wishing you all a very happy start of school,

Heidi Feldman 831/521-8196

e-mail: hfeldman@pgusd.org

Flyers

Coffee with the Counselogs Tuesday August 29 9am-10am Come meet the counseling team. Ask questions, and learn about social emotional supports provided by your Robert Down counseling team conparguppen.ppg cori Rosenberg. LCSW. RN

OUESTIONS?
PLEASE ONTACT SONDA @
SFRUDDEN@PGUSD.ORG
OR
(831) 291-3389

Parent Workshops

Guidance and Support from the Elementary School Counseling Team - Zoe Roach, MEd, PPS, Sonda Frudden, PPS and Cori Rosenberg, LCSW,RN

Parent Toolbox Talk

- Wed Sept 6 | 6pm Robert Down
- Thurs Sept 7 | 9am Forest Grove



Executive Functioning (EF)

- Wed Jan 31 | 9am Forest Grove
- Thurs Feb 1 | 6pm Robert Down



Coffee and pastries will be available Questions? Please contact Cori at the morning sessions and snacks in the evening sessions

Helping Your Child Cope with Stress and Anxiety

- Wed Nov 15 | 6pm Forest Grove
- Thurs Nov 14 | 9am Robert Down



Transitions for parents of 5th graders

- Wed May 1 | 9am Robert Down
- Thurs May 2 | 6pm Forest Grove

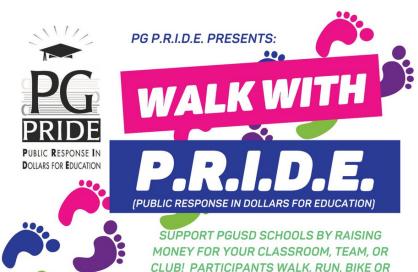


Rosenberg: crosenberg@pgusd.org or (831) 632-9551

These talks are a collaboration between FG and RD and parents are welcome to attend any session at either school ©



CLICK HERE FOR TICKETS TO THE SOCCER GAME!



MONEY FOR YOUR CLASSROOM, TEAM, OR CLUB! PARTICIPANTS WALK, RUN, BIKE OR SCOOT ALONG THE REC TRAIL BETWEEN LOVER'S POINT AND THE AQUARIUM, AND GAIN PLEDGES FROM FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO SUPPORT THEIR EFFORTS!

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON



START @ THE LOVER'S POINT REC TRAIL

DONATE NOW @ WWW.SUPPORTPGPRIDE.COM

ALL MONEY RAISED GOES DIRECTLY TO YOUR CHILD'S CLASSROOM - DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR!

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

Join PTA (\$20/member)

The RHD PTA is a non-profit organization and donations are tax deductible. Tax ID# 23-7103880



https://jointotem.com/ca/pacific-grove/robert-h-down-elementary-pta

RHD T-shirts / Sweatshirts



\$15 / \$35 cash or check

\$16 / \$37 Totem, PayPal, or credit card (Square)



\$5 each sticker/decal (free with each membership!)

RHD PTA DINE OUT FUNDRAISERS





AUGUST 23
4pm-9pm

SEPTEMBER



SEPTEMBER 20

All day

OCTOBER



OCTOBER 11

All day







NOVEMBER



NOVEMBER 15

Dinner

DECEMBER



DECEMBER 13

All day





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Pacific Grove Unified School District



August 2023 Elementary School Menu

Breakfast				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Cereal Raisins / Craisins / Apple Crisps Milk	Mini Cinnis Raisins / Craisins / Apple Crisps Milk	Concha/Pan Dulce (Mexican sweet bread) 100% Fruit Juice Milk	Cereal Fresh Fruit Milk	Chocolate Muffin 100% Fruit Juice Milk

Lunch					
Monday 8/7	Tuesday 8/8	Wednesday 8/9	Thursday 8/10	Friday 8/11	
		Miller's Beef Hotdog (uncured, no nitrates) Sweet Potato Tots Fresh Fruit Milk	Build-a-Burger (all-beef or veggie patty) plain or with cheese, lettuce & pickles Baked Beans 100% Fruit Juice Milk	Domino's Cheese Pizza Side Salad Fresh Fruit Milk	
Monday 8/14	Tuesday 8/15	Wednesday 8/16	Thursday 8/17	Friday 8/18	
Macaroni & Cheese Garlic Breadstick Green Beans Fresh Fruit Milk	Chicken 8 Waffle (NAE chicken served with syrup) Corn Fresh Fruit Milk	Orange Chicken Steamed Rice Broccoli Fresh Fruit Milk	Grilled Chicken Sandwich or Veggie Burger Swet Potato Tater Tots 100% Fruit Juice Milk Abby's Mini Chocolate Chip Cookies	Domino's Cheese Pizza Side Salad Fresh Fruit Milk	
Monday 8/21	Tuesday 8/22	Wednesday 8/23	Thursday 8/24	Friday 8/25	
Mozzarella Stuffed Breadsticks with marinara sauce Green Beans Applesauce Milk	Crispy Chicken Sandwich (NAE whole-muscle breaded filet) Carrots Fruit Cup Milk	Miller's Beef Hotdog (uncured, no nitrates) Sweet Potato Tots Fresh Fruit Milk	Build-a-Burger (all-beef or veggie patty) plain or with cheese, lettuce & pickles Baked Beans 100% Fruit Juice Milk	Domino's Cheese Pizza Side Salad Fresh Fruit Milk	
Monday 8/28	Tuesday 8/29	Wednesday 8/30	Thursday 8/31		
Macaroni & Cheese Garlic Breadstick Green Beans Fresh Fruit Milk	Chicken 8 Waffle (NAE chicken served with syrup) Corn Fresh Fruit Milk	Orange Chicken Steamed Rice Broccoli Fresh Fruit Milk	Grilled Chicken Sandwich or Veggle Burger Baked Beans 100% Fruit Juice Milk		

Daily Vegetarian Option includes Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich & Bean & Cheese Burrito Menu subject to change without notice; the USDA and CDE are equal opportunity providers and employers

ALL MEALS ARE FREE THROUGH MAY 31, 2024

www.pgusd.org/Departments/Food-Services





Robert H. Down Bell Schedule 2023-24

Regular Schedule (1 st - 5 th grade)		Regular Schedule (TK & Kindergarten)		
8:40	Warning Bell	8:40	Warning Bell	
8:45 - 9:55	Instruction	8:45 - 9:40	Instruction	
9:55 - 10:05	Recess	9:40 - 9:50	Recess	
10:05 - 12:05	Instruction	9:50 - 12:00	Instruction	
12:05 - 12:50	Lunch	12:00 - 12:50	Lunch	
12:50 - 1:55	Instruction	12:50 - 2:10	Instruction	
1:55 - 2:05	Recess	2:10	Dismissal	
2:05 - 3:10	Instruction			
3:10	Dismissal			



4	
TI	nursday Schedule
(4	ALL STUDENTS)
8:40	Warning Bell
8:45 - 9:55	Instruction
9:55 - 10:05	Recess
10:05 - 12:05	Instruction
12:05 - 12:50	Lunch
12:50 - 1:55	Instruction
1:55	Dismissal

Minimum Day Schedule

(All Students)

8:40 Warning Bel 8:45 - 9:55 Instruction 9:55 - 10:05 Recess 10:05 - 12:10 Instruction

Every Otter SWIMS - RHD Behavior Expectations

Robert H. Down Elementary Behavioral Expectations Every Otter SWIMS						
	Hallways/Restrooms	Cafeteria/Lunch Area	Playground/Field	Arrival/Dismissal	Classroom/Ottertorium	Toolbox Tools
S how Respect	Walk Slowly on the right side Use positive words with others Respect the space and needs of others	Stay in a single file line while waiting Keep your hands and feet to yourself Ask permission	Show good sports-manship Use appropriate language Respect the space and needs of others	Arrive on time Follow the rules if riding the bus/using bike/scooter Use crosswalks Be safe on sidewalks	Speak and listen carefully Clean up work areas and desk area Let the little things go Show gratitude	Please and Thank You Using Your Words Garbage Can Be Safe
W ork Hard I ncrease	Be quiet while in transition Make good decisions Keep school clean Voice Level: 0 Go directly where you need to be Be honest and	Use manners Sit with others and get to know new people Keep school clean Voice Levels: 0-2 Raise your hand for assistance Be prepared to eat &	Walk on blacktops at all times Be a problem solver Try all games/ areas Voice Level: 3 Admit when it is not your turn or are out Follow game rules and	Wait outside with patience Enter building quietly and in your line Voice Level: 0-2 Have all your needed materials Be aware of responsi-	Embrace academic struggle Listen with your eyes, ears, and heart Voice Level: 0-2 Be engaged during instruction Be prompt, prepared,	Patience Listening Breathing Perseverance/Grit Apology & Forgiveness
Integrity	respectful with peers and adults • Keep restrooms clean	don't leave any items do not make up no inside building ones	Praise others for their	bilities and behavior expectations for all activities	and ready to learn Do your own work and not depend on AI/technology	Empathy Be Kind
M ake a Difference	Keep hands and feet to yourself Show genuine care for RHD Respect the space and needs of others	Eat all your food to reduce waste Separate food scraps, recycling, & waste Respect all staff members providing direction	Walk away from a conflict and inform an adult Show genuine care for others—look out for the Buddy Bench	Respect all staff members providing direction Make safe decisions while walking/riding to and from school	Care for equipment and supplies Clean up work areas and desk area Take risks and learn new things	Taking Time Personal Space Quiet Safe Place Be Your Personal Best Every Day
S tand Up for Yourself and Others	Do the right thing Share if someone is making a mess or does not flush Respect others' stuff	Do the right thing when no one is watching Bring food that does not cause allergic reactions, especially PB & J	Tell the truth and accept the results Seek assistance to resolve problems: Stop, Walk, Talk	Walk and be safe inside or outside buildings Ask an adult staff member for help if someone needs a ride	Include all students in groups and activities Give your best effort on homework Try new ways to learn	Courage Be an Upstander Looking Out (for Others) Tool

Mr. Keller will be discussing the RHD Behavior Expectations with students during our first Toolbox Assemblies on Friday: Primary grades (TK, Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd at 10:10) Intermediate grades (3rd, 4th, and 5th at 10:30). Parents who have been cleared as a volunteer may attend (fingerprinted and cleared).



CLICK HERE to ORDER RHD Spirit Wear

Otterly Adorable











Robert Down Elementary School

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

Location: 485 Pine Avenue, Pacific Grove, CA, USA

Phone: (831) 646-6540





Communicate quickly and effectively with interactive newsletters.

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

Create a newsletter

