

Robert Down Principal's Update

August 31, 2023

Principal's Message

Dear RHD Families -

Happy Friday! I wish all of our families a wonderful three-day weekend. Don't miss the Monterey County Fair and rest up for our first full month of instruction.

Below there are two sign ups: one for 4th and 5th grade students interested in Lego Robotics and a message from our Garden Coordinator who is looking for parents to help this Sunday in getting our garden ready for the year. Please note: Lego Robotics will be meeting off campus at PGMS and preference will be provided to 5th graders if there are limitations on who can be on the competition team this fall. Another Lego Robotics group will meet in the spring that will focus on individual and small group builds.

Also below is information for RHD Drama from our excellent director, Shawn Rosza. RHD Drama serves students in grades 2-5. Both Drama and Lego Robotics are <u>free programs</u> and are not part of the After School Enrichment (ASE) program.

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: <u>https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cShPgBm7xIF-WsDlUG6zznIOwUo7ymk2/view?usp=sharing</u>

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 / <u>cwaznis@pgusd.org</u>

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:

- Drop off zones should not be used as parking spaces and will be marked with orange cones. Students should be able to get out of the vehicle on their own on the sidewalk side of the street. This routine should occur as fast as possible - any special goodbyes should be performed BEFORE you are dropping off your student: 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.
- <u>Please park away from campus if you would like to drive your student to school and walk</u> 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 <u>darryl.smith@pgusd.org</u> or go to our website <u>https://robertdown.pgusd.org/Parents/B-A-S-R-P-/index.html</u>

In Otter Ohana,

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



RHD Upcoming Events

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 9 - Wellness Fair, PGMS, 11:00 AM - 1:00 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 20 - PTA DIne Out, Pacific Thai, all day
September 23 - PTA Bike Rodeo, RHD Playground, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
September 26 - Cocoa with Keller, 6:30 PM, <u>https://pgusd.zoom.us/j/86528894217</u>
Meeting ID: 865 2889 4217



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 <u>adeis@pgusd.org</u>

3) Please make sure to relay afterschool plans with your child <u>PRIOR</u> 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 <u>bnehring@pgusd.org</u>

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

Screen Time Events from SmartSocial

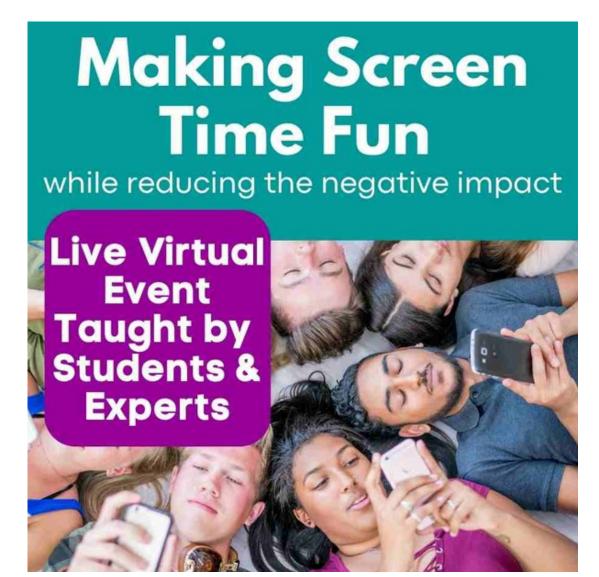
- Making Screen Time Fun While Reducing the Negative Impact VIP Event, August 30th & 31st
- Live Parent & Student ChatGPT & Google Bard AI Training September 7th
- Avoiding Strangers, Drugs, and Dangerous Situations Online VIP Event, September 26th & 27th

- Navigating AI 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.





Instagram, & YouTube

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

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 <u>compulsary</u> 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 In bots way to determine in focus are antigy-nee snack
 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 cating 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

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.



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 FARE. MYTHS FACT: For someone with a MYTH: Eating a little bit food allergy, even a of a food you're allergic small amount of a food to won't hurt. allergen can cause a serious allergic reaction. MYTH: Peanut allergy FACT: Any food can cause an allergic is the most reaction. No single food allergy is more dangerous than another. dangerous food allergy. FACT: Food allergies MYTH: Food allergies are VERY serious. are not serious. People with food allergies must be eat all the time and always be prepared for an allergic reaction. MYTH: A food FACT: A person can develop a 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.



RHD 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 <u>robertdowndrama@gmail.com</u>

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 rdgarden@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: <u>hfeldman@pgusd.org</u>

Flyers

CLICK THE LINK TO SIGN UP FOR



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ROBERT DOWN TEAMS WILL MEET THURSDAYS 2-4PM AT PACIFIC GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL. DETAILS WILL BE SHARED AFTR SIGN UPS ARE FINALIZED.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE EMAIL SANDRA VARAJIC AT SANDRAVARAJIC[AT]GMAIL.COM

ROBERT DOWN SIGN UP LINK

Click HERE for Lego Robotics!

WELLNESS FAIR



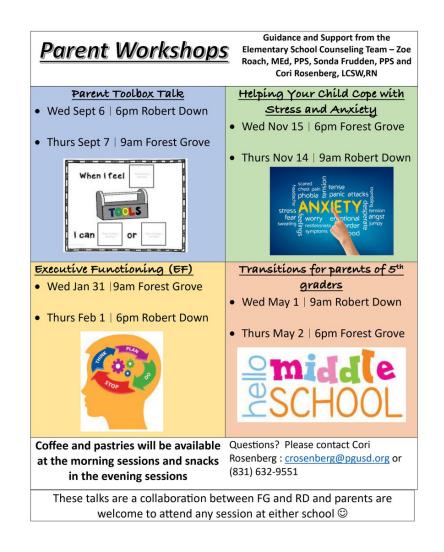
RESOURCE TABLES
 INFORMATION
 DISCUSSION WITH
 LOCAL AGENCIES

PARTICIPANTS INCLUDE

PG LIBRARY * PGPD * AIM HARMONY AT HOME * VILLAGE PROJECT MO CO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH * EPICENTER WONDERWOOD RANCH * GROWING SOCIAL WAHINE PROJECT * BALANCE TREATMENT EQUINE HEALING COLLAB * OHANA MONTEREY RAPE CRISIS CENTER COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES

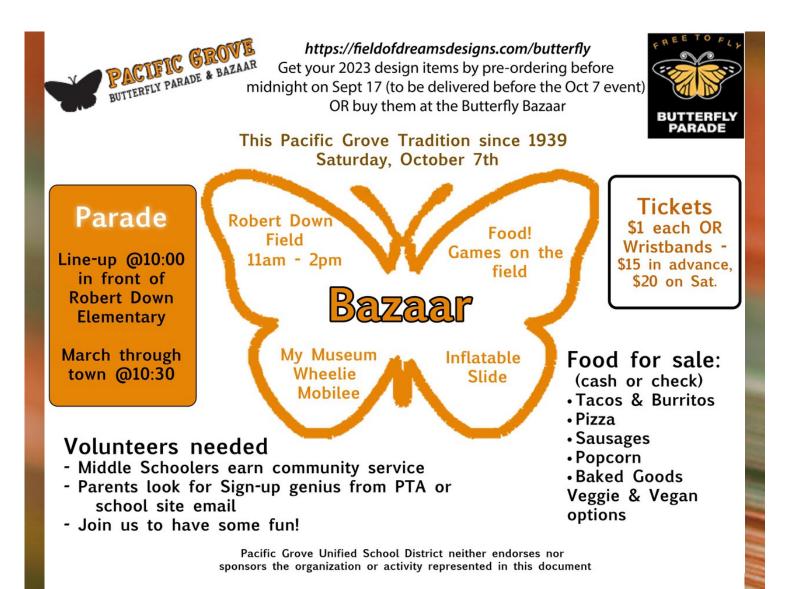
IDEAL FOR FAMILIES
 WANTING TO LEARN
 ABOUT LOCAL WELLNESS
 AND MENTAL HEALTH
 RESOURCES
 FREE TO ATTEND
 FOOD TRUCK







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

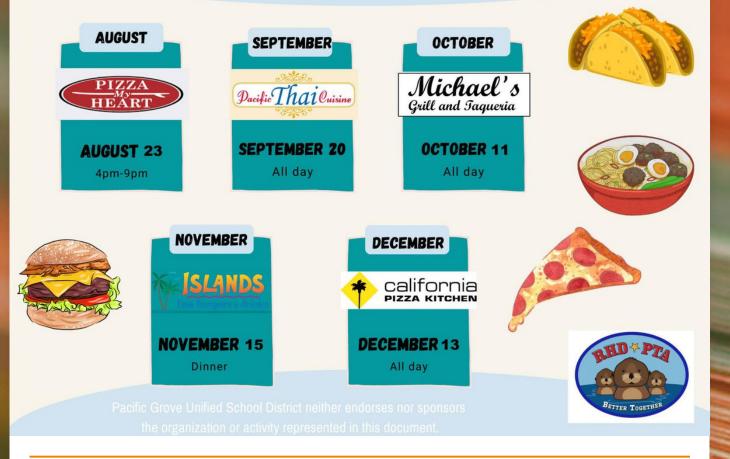


\$15 / \$35 cash or check

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

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

RHD PTA DINE OUT FUNDRAISERS





Pacific Grove Unified School District



September 2023 Elementary School Menu

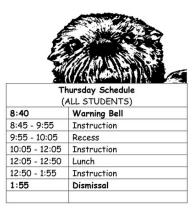
		Breakfast	and the second		
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday Chocolate Muffin 100% Fruit Juice	
Cereal Raisins / Craisins / Apple Crisps	Mini Cinnis Raisins / Craisins / Apple Crisps	Concha/Pan Dulce (Mexican sweet bread) 100% Fruit Juice	Cereal Fresh Fruit		
		Lunch			
Monday 9/4	Tuesday 9/5	Wednesday 9/6	Thursday 9/7	Friday 9/8	
FRIDAY 9/1 PIZZA FRIDAY MONDAY 9/4 Labor Day Holiday	Grilled or Crispy Chicken Sandwich Carrots Miller's Beef Hotdog (uncured, no nitrates) Burger Day (all-beef or veggie pathy) Fruit Cup Sweet Potato Tots Fresh Fruit Baked Beans 100% Fruit Juice		(all-beef or veggie patty) plain or with cheese, lettuce & pickles Baked Beans	Domino's Cheese Pizza Side Salad Fresh Fruit	
Monday 9/11	Tuesday 9/12	Wednesday 9/13	Thursday 9/14	Friday 9/15	
Bean & Cheese Papusa Garlic Breadstick Green Beans Fresh Fruit	Chicken 8 Waffle (NAE chicken served with syrup) Com Fresh Fruit	Orange Chicken Steamed Rice Broccoli Fresh Fruit	Grilled or Crispy Chicken Sandwich or Veggie Burger Sweet Potato Tater Tots 100% Fruit Juice	Domino's Cheese Pizza Side Salad Fresh Fruit	
Monday 9/18	Tuesday 9/19	Wednesday 9/20	Thursday 9/21	Friday 9/22	
Mozzarella Stuffed Breadsticks with marinara sauce Green Beans Applesauce	Grilled or Crispy Chicken Sandwich Carrots Fruit Cup	Mini Corn Dogs Sweet Potato Tots Fresh Fruit	Burger Day (all-beef or veggie patty) plain or with cheese, lettuce & pickles Baked Beans 100% Fruit Juice	Domino's Cheese Pizza Side Salad Fresh Fruit	
Monday 9/25	Tuesday 9/26	Wednesday 9/27	Thursday 9/28	Friday 9/29	
Bean & Cheese Papusa Garlic Breadstick (<i>NAE chicken & Waffle</i> Green Beans Corn Fresh Fruit Fresh Fruit		Orange Chicken Steamed Rice Broccoli Fresh Fruit	Grilled Chicken Sandwich or Veggie Burger Baked Beans 100% Fruit Juice	Domino's Cheese Pizza Side Salad Fresh Fruit	
aily Vegetarian Option includes Su			nge without notice; the USDA and CDE are equi	al opportunity providers and em	
1% White & Fat Free Chocolate Milk Available at each meal service	ww				



A CONTRACTOR

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

Robert H. Down Bell Schedule 2023-24



Minimum Day Schedule (All Students)

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

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 Seated 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	 Be quiet while in transition Make good decisions Keep school clean Voice Level: 0 	 Use manners Sit with others and get to know new people Keep school clean Voice Levels: 0-2 	 Walk on blacktops at all times Be a problem solver Try all games/areas Voice Level: 3 	 Wait outside with patience Enter building quietly and in your line Voice Level: 0-2 	 Embrace academic struggle Listen with your eyes, ears, and heart Voice Level: 0-2 	 Patience Listening Breathing Perseverance/Grit 		
I ncrease Integrity	 Go directly where you need to be Be honest and respectful with peers and adults Keep restrooms clean 	 Raise your hand for assistance Be prepared to eat & don't leave any items inside building Cleanup after yourself 	 Admit when it is not your turn or are out Follow game rules and do not make up new ones Praise others for their play 	 Have all your needed materials Be aware of responsi- bilities and behavior expectations for all activities 	 Be engaged during instruction Be prompt, prepared, and ready to learn Do your own work and not depend on AI/ technology 	 Apology & Forgiveness 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 mem- bers providing direc- tion 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).



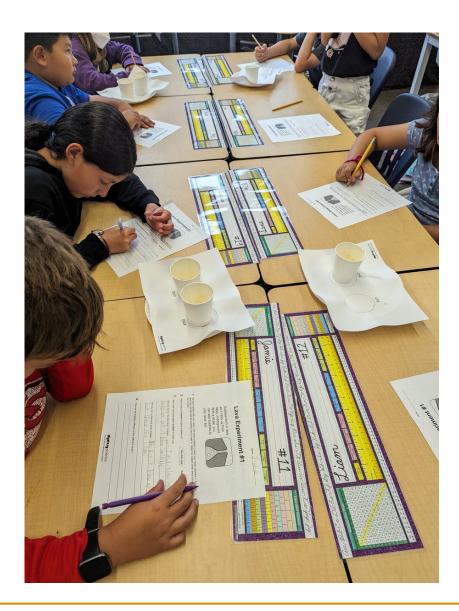
CLICK HERE to ORDER RHD Spirit Wear

Otterly Adorable























Robert Down Elementary School



Website: <u>https://robertdown.pgusd.org/</u> Location: <u>485 Pine Avenue, Pacific Grove, CA, USA</u> Phone: (831) 646-6540

Robert Down Elementary School is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters



Communicate quickly and effectively with interactive newsletters.

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

Create a newsletter

