



Principal's Message Dear RHD Families.

Our Site Council will be changing things up a bit next week by holding an in-person meeting during our PTA Dine Out at California Pizza Kitchen on Wednesday, December 13th from 6:00-7:00. We would like to hear concerns about safety issues or thoughts on



improving our site Safety Plan. If you are not able to attend and would like to send feedback, please send me an email or text and I will share your thoughts with our Site Council members and any parents that decide to attend. Look for an RHD Site Council Smore this Monday with more details.

If you want to see an exciting event indoors that has the same energy as any athletic competition, come to PGHS this Saturday for the first annual Lego Robotics competition in the Student Union from 2:00-5:00 PM. (Near the band room and amphitheater off Sunset Ave.) The Otterbots will be showing off their build skills against their Forest Grove peers along with PGMS Breaker Bots friends. Come check out some really cool tech skills this Saturday!

Forest Grove principal, Abbie Arbrun, and I were working on the map and information this evening before we release to families. Look for a Smore sharing this information next Tuesday, after we

have shared it with our staffs and make any amendments.

I will be off campus tomorrow and Monday. Mary Riedel will be back on campus as administrator in charge. For those of you new to RHD, Ms. Riedel is a former administrator at PGMS and Forest Grove Elementary and a staunch supporter to RHD since her daughter is our office manager and her grandchildren are former and current Otters.

Additional information is repeated below for our new families (roughly 20 by Jan. 9th).

RHD Site Council Meeting Videos

Click on the link to access the November 20, 2023 Site Council notes that include both the October and November meeting video links:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RcLzIUIBIQNpBA8qKu35f2xxR-sh6614ktqmXyWe21E/edit?usp=sharing

If you watch, you will see there are only four members of our Site Council this year. If you have the time once per month, please consider joining us. You do not have to hold a position on the council-we just want more voices to be represented from our families. PTA suggested moving the time later in the evening, so we will start our December 11th meeting at 6:00 PM.

Lost and Found

There are plenty of items in the lost and found. Please take a moment to check out the cubby outside the cafeteria to see if one or more items belong to your student. Items will be donated during Winter Break.

Order RHD Spirit Wear!

Order your student(s) RHD Spirit Wear for the holiday season as well as to stay warm during the annual outdoor program at PGHS Breaker Stadium.

Visit Field of Dreams Designs today: https://fieldofdreamsdesigns.com/client-shops/RHD-Otters

MONTERY COUNTY FOOD BANK - FOOD DRIVE

Robert Down is participating in a Food Drive for the Food Bank for Monterey County. We have several collection barrels on campus for your student to drop off canned and non perishable food items. Please deliver items between now and December 19. Thank you for your donation! For more information please see their website: https://foodbankformontereycounty.org/

TOY DRIVE

The PG Kiwanis are collecting new unwrapped toys. There is a collection bin in the Robert Down lobby.

NEW WINTER PROGRAM DATE

Mark your calendars! Our school wide Winter Program has been changed from December 5 to **December 21**. This event will take place at the PGHS Stadium at 6:00 PM. Information regarding logistics for parking and drop off/pick up of student coming next week.

SCHOOL PHOTOS: School photos were sent home a few weeks ago. If you're missing anything, or have a question, please call Premier Studios directly at 888-274-3686 or 559-274-9231. Picture retake day will be January 18, 2024.

In Otter Ohana,

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



RHD Upcoming Events

December 7-PGUSD Board Meeting, 6:30 PM

December 9—Lego Robotics Competition, PGHS, 2:00-5:00 PM

December 11—RHD Site Council Meeting, 6:00-7:30 PM

December 13—PTA Dine Out, California Pizza Kitchen, 4:00-9:00

PM

December 14-PGUSD Board Meeting, 6:30 PM

December 21—PGUSD Elementary Winter Program, PGHS

Stadium, 6:00 PM

December 22—Minimum Day, all students dismissed at 12:10 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 <u>adeis@pgusd.org</u>

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

PTA CORNER



Let's show our teachers and school staff how much we appreciate them with a special breakfast. Please sign up to bring our amazing teachers and staff some treats.

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4DA4AD2CA2FCC25-46644031-teacher#/

Flyers





CINCERBREAD HOUSE ** KIDS NICHT OUT

Join us for this sweet gingerbread house workshop! Each participant will decorate their own gingerbread house and enjoy winter themed crafts and activities. Individual gingerbread house supplies and a kid friendly dinner will be provided.



YOUTH: 3-12 YEARS DEC. 9, 5:00 PM TO 8:00 PM

PROGRAM FEE: \$25
PACIFIC GROVE RESIDENT FEE: \$23



Pacific Grove Youth Center 302 16th Street www.cityofpg.org/recreation 831.648.3134



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



Pacific Grove Unified School District neither endorses nor sponsors the organization or activity represented in this document.



AFRO-LATIN JAZZ DANCE

2024 Winter/Spring Classes

Afro-Latin Jazz Dance 1, 2 & 3 Ages 7-19 years

> H.E.A.T. Ages 12-19 years

No auditions required for Level 1
Auditions required for Levels 2, 3 & H.E.A.T

Pacific Grove Recreation | 831.648.3134 www.cityofpg.org/recreation

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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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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.



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.

Parent Workshops

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

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



Cori Rosenberg, LCSW,RN

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



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

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 ©

Parenting with Purpose Workshop: Childhood Stress & Anxiety

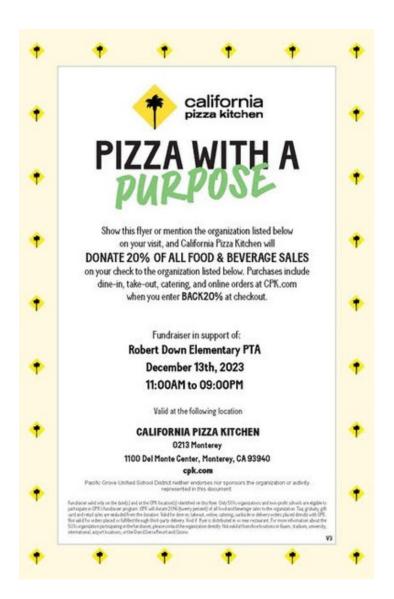


Guidance from the Elementary School Counseling Team – Zoe Roach, MEd, PPS, Sonda Frudden, PPS & Cori Rosenberg, LCSW, RN

Wednesday, November 15 @ 6pm – Forest Grove
Thursday, November 16 @ 9am – Robert Down
All parents are welcome to attend at either school, day & time

Join the counseling team for a discussion of childhood anxiety **Explore** Learn to parenting identify the strategies to signs of support childhood children with anxiety anxiety

Questions or comments? Contact Cori Rosenberg @ crosenberg@pgusd.org



CLICK HERE to ORDER RHD Spirit Wear



Otterly Adorable

Photo for this week's **Find the Elf.** If you can spot our elf, named Snowflake, you can win a green card from Mrs. Tobin and Mr. D!







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 <u>compulsor</u>, egg, tree nut, and peanut-free classrooms. We ask that all Second Grade classroom similes 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.

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 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



Al 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





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 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



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

